

Neighborhood Priority Plan Columbia Park Neighborhood Greening and Park Spaces

As part of the Columbia Park Neighborhood Association's (CPNA) Phase II NRP Plan, CPNA included a small allotment for greening and park spaces. This was due to the Phase II need for 70% of neighborhood funds required for housing initiatives and the small amount of funding that the neighborhood receives due to both its size and perceived needs under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) formulas.

During 2014, CPNA chose to reallocate some of our revolving loan income to greening initiatives including additional dollars for a MNDOT roadside greening grant to replace landscaping along a section of MN State HWY 47 that had been clear cut of dead/weed and Ash trees (likely to get EAB due to infestations in Hennepin Co). We also chose to invest in a cooperative agreement with Metro Blooms to aid neighbors in planting raingardens on their property in an effort to keep more rain run off within the boundaries of their yards, thus preventing silt, grass clippings and other items from washing into the storm sewers and to the Mississippi River (our western border).

The purpose of the proposed reallocation of CPP dollars left from our 2011-2014 budgets is to supplement our small number of remaining Green Space funds from NRP Phase II and our NPP dollars we budgeted and have not yet allocated to projects. The following are projects we have proposed within our 2014-16 budget as NPP's which we plan to propose and receive feedback on during our 2015 Annual Meeting at Hi-View Park.

- 1) During NRP Phase 1, CPNA allocated over \$25,000 to the refurbishing of the Columbia Park Playground, Giant Slide project and Rugby Field enhancements in conjunction with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). In 2014, CPNA worked with the MPRB through their community engagement process to help design a new playground and wading pool for Hi-View Park. The project replaces outdated and non ADA compliant play equipment and a wading pool, also non ADA compliant and at the end of its useful life. The playground equipment and basic pool will be replaced by the MPRB. CPNA would like to use our NPP funds to upgrade the pool area with bubblers, sunshades, additional benches and a turtle slide. The old wading pool had a large cement turtle within the pool that had a spray feature on the front. This turtle no longer meets current safety standards and will be put into the play area as a decorative feature. The new turtle slide will replace this and keep the "Turtle Pool" name consistent with the current nickname for the park.

The new pool configuration does not allow for one of the main shade trees to remain. This we propose to replace with sunshades. While the MPRB does have one in its budget this does not replace the large canopy tree that will be removed, and since many of the other remaining trees in the area are ash, they too will be removed soon and the park will be sun filled for many years while the new trees grow to provide replacement canopy. CPNA would allocate up to \$25,000 for this project.

- 2) In 2004, Central AVE (CPNA's eastern boundary) along Columbia Park and the Columbia Park Golf Course, was rebuilt from curb to curb. The new design included medians with space to accommodate plantings in the center. The original plantings did not thrive and there is currently in place a plan to replant with native species and trees. While the process is not complete, management of this area as well as a planned art feature welcoming southbound traffic to the neighborhoods of Northeast is being considered. CPNA in conjunction with the other neighborhoods along Central AV would like to use NPP dollars to help create and maintain an attractive entry into the community. CPNA would allocate up to \$3000 for this project.
- 3) In 2015 the construction on the new bridge along ST Anthony Parkway, over the Northtown Railyard will begin. When completed there will be a new overlook area at the Southwest corner of the bridge. While technically within the boundaries of the Marshall Terrace Neighborhood, CPNA would like to partner with the Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace (CCMT) to provide a plan for the maintenance of the overlook in the future. We have worked with CCMT as part of the advisory committee for the bridge redesign and have already planned with the aid of Minneapolis Public Works to have a fire hydrant at the site to accommodate the water needs for maintenance. Again, we would like to use NPP funds to accomplish this goal through the purchasing of gardening equipment, hoses and other items to provide the tools needed for neighborhood volunteers to keep the plaza attractive and useable. CPNA would allocate up to \$500 for this project.
- 4) CPNA will work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to add some fixtures to the park land owned by the MPRB in the Columbia Park Neighborhood referred to as the Architect Triangle. Additions could include benches, picnic tables other park amenities. CPNA would allocate up to \$1000 for this project.

The Columbia Park Neighborhood will work with the NCR department of the City of Minneapolis to reallocate our remaining 2011-13 and 2014 CPP dollars to fund these priorities after receiving the consent of the neighborhood through outreach during the spring of 2015 and a neighborhood vote at the June 2015 Annual meeting. It is our intention to then work with the MPRB to accomplish task one in 2015 and task four when feasible.

We will work with Minneapolis Public Works and our Council Member's Office to accomplish tasks 2 and 3 as it becomes appropriate during these projects (for example the bridge is not expected to be completed until the fall of 2016).

These NPP tasks are consistent with the NRP Phase II plan of the Columbia Park Neighborhood and with the following policies of the City of Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth.

Chapter 7 Parks and Open Spaces

Policy 7.1: Promote the physical and mental health of residents and visitors by recognizing that safe outdoor amenities and spaces support exercise, play, relaxation and socializing.

7.1.1 Ensure that adjacent land uses contribute to the safety and ambiance of parks and open spaces.

7.1.5 Provide equipment, programming, and other resources when possible that promote the physical and mental health of citizens.

Policy 7.3: Maintain and improve the accessibility of open spaces and parks to all residents.

7.3.1 Ensure that access to the city's lakes, streams and the Mississippi River continues to be maintained for the benefit of present and future citizens of Minneapolis.

7.3.2 Encourage the development of a broad array of recreation facilities and opportunities in response to a diverse range of resident interests.

7.3.5 Promote designs that ensure access to open space for people with a range of abilities.

7.3.6 Ensure that in all areas of the city people feel safe so that they are comfortable using parks and open spaces.

Policy 7.5: Protect landscapes that are significant to the historic legacy of Minneapolis, the region and state, and preserve and expand artistic features in publicly accessed open spaces.

7.5.3 Encourage the integration of public art into the development and renovation of open spaces and parks and encourage the interpretation of the landscape through art.

7.5.4

Use open space to protect prime public view corridors such as those of landmark buildings, significant open spaces, and/or water bodies.

Policy 7.6: Continue to beautify open spaces through well designed landscaping that complements and improves the city's urban form on many scales – from street trees to expansive views of lakes and rivers.

7.6.3 Invest in the greening of streets, particularly those that connect into and supplement the parks and open spaces network

Policy 7.8: Strengthen existing and create new partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to deliver the best park and open space system possible.

7.8.1 Continue to collaborate and coordinate space sharing, maintenance agreements, and programming among public agencies.

Pedestrian Traffic and Public Safety

At our annual meeting on June 18, 2015 in approving this NPP, the neighborhood voted to add a 5th initiative. This amendment would fall under our **Pedestrian Traffic and Public Safety** section of our **NRP Phase II Plan**.

- 5) Add a sidewalk from Hi-view Park to Edge Place for connection to the new city sidewalk that is part of St Anthony Parkway bridge replacement project. This project will be between CPNA, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (owners of Hi-View Park) and the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department. During the discussions surrounding the bridge replacement the neighborhood asked for a pedestrian connection (sidewalk) to continue from where the bridge project sidewalk ended on Main ST south of Edge Place to the park. This connection would give neighbors an off road connection to St Anthony Parkway and the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway bike and pedestrian trails. In working with the MPRB, CPNA will help fund the missing piece from 35th AV NE south to Edge Place. This will create the connection for Public Works to install the other portion as part of the bridge replacement project. The budget recommended by the MPRB for this project is \$25,000. This may be either an NPP or may be funded by the income from our revolving loan program. This initiative is supported by the follow policies of the Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth.

Chapter 2 Transportation

Policy 2.2: Support successful streets and communities by balancing the needs of all modes of transportation with land use policy.

2.2.1 Identify modal priorities on each street to improve the overall effectiveness of each element of the transportation network.

2.2.3 Promote street and sidewalk design that balances handling traffic flow with the pedestrian orientation and principles of traditional urban form.

2.2.6 Encourage reconnection of the traditional street grid where possible, to increase connectivity for all travel modes and strengthen neighborhood character.

Policy 2.3: Encourage walking throughout the city by ensuring that routes are safe, comfortable, pleasant and accessible.

2.3.1 Ensure that there are safe and accessible pedestrian routes to major destinations, including transit corridors, from nearby residential areas.

Chapter 5 Public Services and Facilities

Policy 5.4: Enhance the safety, appearance, and effectiveness of the city's infrastructure.

5.4.1 Maintain and improve the quality and condition of public streets, sidewalks, bridges, water systems and other public infrastructure.

5.4.2 Plan for and provide public facilities which anticipate growth needs, use fiscal resources efficiently, and meet realistic timelines.

Policy 5.7: protect and improve individual, community and environmental health.

5.7.2 Integrate physical activity into the everyday life of residents through land use and transportation planning.