

# Como Regional Park - McMurray Fields Area Transportation Improvements Project

## Pop - Up Meeting Summary

*August 2015*

### Pop-up Meeting Overview

A series of three pop - up meetings were held for the Como Regional Park – McMurray Fields Area Transportation Improvements Project during the week of August 25. The purpose of these meetings was to engage stakeholders as they use the park in order to inform the development of transportation improvements for the area. The goals of the pop-up meetings were as follows:

- Collect feedback from users of McMurray Fields and Como Park about their current use of the area and their suggestions for improvements
- Inform the public about the upcoming improvements to Como Regional Park-McMurray Fields area
- Develop a stakeholder contact list by collecting email addresses

Project staff conducted a short survey to collect information from park users on issues and opportunities. Users were asked to provide information on their mode of transportation, parking availability, travel experience (getting to the park), and accessibility (once at the park). In total, 114 surveys were collected. See attachment 1 for a complete listing of the survey questions.



*Project staff engaging Como Pool users*



*Project staff conducting surveys and passing out popsicles*

## Meeting Format

The meetings were scheduled on both weekdays and a weekend to reach a diverse cross-section of park users. Meeting times were generally set to correspond with peak period traffic volumes in order to maximize engagement opportunities. The meeting dates, times, and locations are described below:

- Meeting 1 – McMurray Fields Area
  - Date/time: Tuesday, August 25, 2015, 5:30 – 8:00 PM
  - Surveys collected: 54
- Meeting 2 – Como Pool (weekday)
  - Date/time: Wednesday, August 26, 1:30 – 3:30 PM
  - Surveys collected: 28
- Meeting 3: – Como Pool (weekend)
  - Date/time: Saturday, August 29, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
  - Surveys collected: 29

For the McMurray Fields area pop-up meeting, project staff set up a table near a parking lot for McMurray Fields where a series of youth soccer games were being held. Staff members spent time walking around the fields talking to those watching the games and collecting data. Both paper surveys and electronic surveys were used to collect input.

Meetings at Como Pool were held at two different times to reach a diverse sample of pool users: one meeting on a weekday afternoon and one meeting mid-day on the weekend. A table was set up outside of the pool entrance and staff conducted surveys.

## Survey Results

The following is a summary of the aggregate survey results for each of the three pop-up meetings, as well as the verbal comments received by project staff. See Attachment 1 for a complete listing of the survey questions and Attachment 2 for a tabulation of the full survey results, by location.

### Aggregate Results Summary

#### Where do you live?

Based on the zip codes provided, most (67%) park and pool users live in the St. Paul area. This was consistent for each of the three pop-up meetings. Other common locations were West St. Paul, White Bear Lake, and Minneapolis.

#### How did you get to the fields/pool?

Nearly all (99%) of users reached the fields/pool by car. A total of five users walked, two rode the bus, and one biked.

#### How many people were in your car?

For those who drove, a majority (71%) of users arrived with two or more people in the car. Eight (9%) users drive alone, and 19 (20%) had two people in the car.

#### Was there enough parking?

Most (87%) users felt the supply of parking was adequate. Some respondents commented that while parking was adequate at the time of the survey, parking can be limited during peak periods.

### **If Improvements were made to pedestrian or bike access or bus service, would it change how you get to Como Park?**

The majority of park and pool users, (74%), would not change the way they get to park/pool if improvements were made to pedestrian or bike access or bus service. Eleven users (14%) would change the way they get to the park if improvements were made, and nine users (12%) say they might change the way the travel if improvements were made.

### **Did you have any problems getting to the park/pool?**

Most (87%) park/pool users reported no problems getting to the park/pool.

### **If you encountered problems getting to the field/park, what were the problems?**

A majority (78%) of the fourteen users who indicated that they encountered problems getting to the park/pool identified traffic or congestion as the problem. One person (7%) identified the street name change from Como Avenue to Wynne as a problem, one person (7%) said wayfinding was difficult, and one person (7%) stated that the intersection at University Avenue and Lexington Parkway was messy and caused a problem for them.

### **Did you have any trouble accessing the field/pool?**

Most (83%) park/pool users did not have any troubles accessing the field/pool.

### **If you encountered problems accessing the park/ pool, what were the problems?**

Nearly all of the nineteen users who indicated that they experienced access issues were McMurray Fields survey respondents and not pool users. Approximately one quarter (26%) of these identified the hills leading down to the field area as the barrier to access, three users (16%) said that the lack of steps leading down to the field was a problem, two users (11%) that wayfinding was a problem, two users (11%) thought that lack of a field numbering system was a problem. Other problems, each listed by one person were: No access ramp, not enough parking on Jessamine Avenue, Como Avenue name change to Wynne Avenue west of Lexington Parkway, congestion on Lexington Parkway, getting to the fields from parking, traffic and sidewalks.

### **What improvements are most needed at McMurray Fields/Como Pool?**

The most desirable improvement, identified by seventeen people (17%) as most important at McMurray Fields/Como Pool, was improvements to parking. Improvements to bike trails and sidewalks were identified by sixteen people (16%) as the most important improvement needed and ten people (10%) stated that improvements to lighting was most important. Additional seating/benches, as well as the addition of a staircase down to the fields from Jessamine Avenue, were each identified by five users (5%) as the improvement they would most like to see. Four users (4%) said that more bathroom facilities are most important to them and another four users (4%) cited labels for fields. Three users (3%) stated that wayfinding needed improvements. Three people (3%) identified concession stands as a needed improvement and three people (3%) would like to see a playground/jungle gym. Three people also identified a shady area to play as important. Three people said that keeping restrooms clean and stocked is the most important improvement. Turning Jessamine Avenue into a two way street was important to two users and two users stated bee control as important. Two users advocated for a picnic area with tables and another two suggested additional pool chairs. Two users wanted an ADA compliant ramp to get to water slides and another two users stated that an improvement that is important to them would be additional traffic lanes.

The following responses were each identified one time as the most important improvement needed: More transportation, better access for elderly, improvements to trail that is too close to cars by the

Lexington Parkway Bridge, more grass fields, more turf fields, sidewalk alongside field on south side, waiting area at the pool is not safe/separate from traffic, crowd control in the pool line, separate field and pool parking.

### **Verbal Comments**

The following is a summary of observations and verbal comments received by project staff.

#### **Pop-up Meeting 1: August 25 - McMurray Fields**

- People arrive early to ensure they get parking
- Beautiful facility/well maintained
- Lexington Pkwy is very congested from the Jessamine Avenue to the light at Como Avenue/Wynne Avenue
- Lack of parking on Jessamine Avenue and abundance at the pool
- Traffic in the area can be difficult to navigate, but parking is not
- People often speed in the parking lot
- Hard for grandparents with mobility issues to come down to the field
- Additional way finding signs are needed to direct people to the different fields
- Many people drop people off, but do not stay for the games

#### **Pop-up Meeting 2: August 26 - Como Pool**

- A ramp vs. a curb near the handicapped parking would be helpful
- Parking is reduced to one side of the street during the Hmong soccer tournament and that is difficult for neighbors, particularly those with mobility issues, to access their homes
- Parking was ok today, but often is not
- Left turn signal from Lexington Parkway to Wynne Avenue
- Names of roads have been changed which makes navigating Google Maps difficult
- Picnic tables and a shady area for families would be nice
- Bee control (maybe keep Benadryl on hand or an epi pen)
- Better consideration for those with disabilities and general mobility issues

#### **Pop-up Meeting 3: August 29 - Como Pool**

- More bathrooms in field area
- People park for the field area at the pool
- Parking should be separate for the pool and the fields
- Should create a line for those who purchase season passes
- Often there are large groups of children without enough staff supervision
- There is only one line but two windows which can get confusing. Make two lines?

## Attachment 1: Survey Questions

1. Where do you live (based on zip code)?
2. How did you get to the fields/pool?
  - a. Walk:
  - b. Bike:
  - c. Bus:
  - d. Car:
3. How many people were in your car?
  - a. One:
  - b. Two:
  - c. More than two:
4. Was there enough parking?
  - a. Yes:
  - b. No:
5. If improvements were made to pedestrian or bike access or bus service, would it change how you get to Como Park?
  - a. Yes:
  - b. No:
  - c. Maybe:
6. Did you have any problems getting to the park?
  - a. Yes:
  - b. No:
7. If you experienced any problems, what problems did you experience?
8. Did you have any problems accessing the fields?
  - a. Yes:
  - b. No:
9. If you experienced any problems, What problems did you experience?
10. What improvements are most needed more at McMurray Fields/Como Pool
  - a. Roads/circulation:
  - b. Bike trails/sidewalks:
  - c. Lighting:
  - d. Parking:
  - e. Other:

## Attachment 2: Survey Results

The following is a tabulation of the full survey results for each of the three pop-up meeting locations.

### Pop-up Meeting 1: August 25 - McMurray Fields

1. Where do you live (based on zip code)?

Zip Code	Cities in Zip Code	Number of respondents
55104	Saint Paul	9
55106	Saint Paul and Maplewood	5
55116	Saint Paul	4
55105	Saint Paul	3
55107	Saint Paul and West Saint Paul	3
55107	Saint Paul and West Saint Paul	3
55108	Saint Paul, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale	2
55119	Saint Paul and Maplewood	2
55103	Saint Paul	2
55414	Minneapolis	2
55109	Saint Paul, North Saint Paul, Little Canada and Maplewood	2
55124	Saint Paul and Apple Valley	1
55082	Stillwater, Oak Park Heights and West Lakeland	1
55421	Minneapolis, Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop and Saint Anthony	1
55305	Hopkins and Minnetonka	1
55434	Hopkins, Eden Prairie and Minnetonka	1
55347	Eden Prairie	1
55057	Northfield and Waterford	1
55419	Minneapolis	1
55403	Minneapolis	1

2. How did you get to the fields/pool?

- a. Walk: 3 respondents
- b. Bike: 0 respondents
- c. Bus: 0 respondents
- d. Car: 43 respondents

3. How many people were in your car?

- a. One: 5 respondents
- b. Two: 5 respondents
- c. More than two: 18 respondents

4. Was there enough parking?
  - a. Yes: 37 respondents
  - b. No: 6 respondents
5. If improvements were made to pedestrian or bike access or bus service, would it change how you get to Como Park?
  - a. Yes: 5 respondents
  - b. No: 10 respondents
  - c. Maybe: 3 responses
6. Did you have any problems getting to the park?
  - a. Yes: 3 respondents
  - b. No: 42 respondents
7. If you experienced any problems, what problems did you experience?
  - a. Traffic: 3 respondents
8. Did you have any problems accessing the fields?
  - a. Yes: 13 respondents
  - b. No: 32 respondents
9. If you experienced any problems, what problems did you experience?
  - a. No field numbers: 2 respondents
  - b. Hills: 5 respondents
  - c. No steps: 3 responses
  - d. No access ramp: 1 respondent
10. What improvements are most needed more at McMurray Fields/Como Pool
  - a. Roads/circulation: 3 responses
  - b. Bike trails/sidewalks: 7 responses
  - c. Lighting: 1 response
  - d. Security: 0 responses
  - e. Parking: 3 responses
  - f. Other responses: 25
    1. More transportation: 1 response
    2. Labels for fields: 4 responses
    3. Better access for elderly: 1 response
    4. More seating/benches: 4 responses
    5. Add a stair case on Jessamine Avenue: 5 responses
    6. Trail is too close to cars by the Lexington Parkway bridge: 1 response
    7. More Porta Potties/bathrooms: 4 responses
    8. Concessions whose profits will benefit the teams: 2 responses
    9. More shaded areas: 1 response
    10. Grass fields: 1 response
    11. More turf fields: 1 response
    12. Sidewalk alongside field on south side of the field: 1 response
    13. Make Jessamine Avenue a two way street: 1 response
    14. Playground/jungle gym: 3 responses

15. More water fountains: 2 responses

## Pop-up Meeting 2: August 26 - Como Pool (weekday)

1. Where do you live (based on zip code)?

Zip Code	Cities in Zip Code	Number of respondents
55108	Saint Paul, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale	5
55104	Saint Paul	4
55105	Saint Paul	4
55117	Saint Paul, Little Canada and Maplewood	3
55118	Saint Paul, Mendota Heights, Sunfish Lake and West Saint Paul	2
55113	Saint Paul, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada and Roseville	2
55119	Saint Paul and Maplewood	1
55106	Saint Paul and Maplewood	1
55116	Saint Paul	1
55103	Saint Paul	1
55130	Saint Paul	1
55125	Saint Paul and Woodbury	1
55407	Minneapolis	1
55406	Minneapolis	1
55115	Saint Paul, Mahtomedi, Pine Springs, White Bear Lake and Grant	1
55446	Minneapolis and Plymouth	1
55126	Saint Paul, Arden Hills, North Oaks, Roseville, Shoreview and Lino Lakes	1
55122	Saint Paul and Eagan	1
55403	Minneapolis	1
55387	Waconia and Minnetrista	1
55432	Minneapolis, Fridley and Spring Lake Park	1
55129	Saint Paul and Woodbury	1

2. How did you get to the fields/pool?

- Walk: 2 respondents
- Bike: 0 respondents
- Bus: 1 respondent
- Car: 35 respondents

3. How many people were in your car?

- One: 2 respondents



- b. Two: 5 respondents
  - c. More than two: 28 respondents
- 4. Was there enough parking?
  - a. Yes: 32 respondents
  - b. No: 3 respondents
- 5. If improvements were made to pedestrian or bike access or bus service, would it change how you get to Como Park?
  - a. Yes: 3 responses
  - b. No: 29 respondents
  - c. Maybe: 2 respondents
- 6. Did you have any problems getting to the park?
  - a. Yes: 4 respondents
  - b. No: 34 respondents
- 7. If you experienced any problems, what problems did you experience?
  - a. Congestion: 1 respondent
  - b. Como Avenue name change: 1 respondent
  - c. Signage: 1 respondent
  - d. University Avenue and Lexington Parkway is messy: 1 respondent
- 8. Did you have any problems accessing the pool?
  - a. Yes: 2 respondents
  - b. No: 31 respondents
- 9. If you experienced any problems, what problems did you experience?
  - a. Wayfinding: 1 respondent
  - b. Not enough parking on Jessamine Avenue: 1 respondent
  - c. Como Avenue name change to Wynne Avenue west of Lexington: 1 respondent
  - d. Congestion on Lexington Parkway: 1 respondent
  - e. Getting to fields from parking: 1 respondent
- 10. What improvements are most needed more at McMurray Fields/Como Pool
  - a. Roads/circulation: 2 respondents
  - b. Bike trails/sidewalks: 7 respondents
  - c. Lighting: 1 respondent
  - d. Parking: 7 respondents
  - e. Other: Wayfinding- 16 responses
    - 1. Waiting area line at poop is not safe/separate from traffic: 1 response
    - 2. Wayfinding: 2 responses
    - 3. Bee control: 2 responses
    - 4. Picnic tables/area: 2 responses
    - 5. Shady area to play: 2 responses
    - 6. More pool chairs: 2 responses
    - 7. ADA compliant ramp to get to waterslides: 2 responses
    - 8. Turn Jessamine Avenue into a two way street: 1 response

### Pop-up Meeting 3: August 29 - Como Pool (weekend)

1. Where do you live (based on zip code)?

Zip Code	Cities in Zip Code	Number of respondents
55104	Saint Paul	5
55107	Saint Paul and West Saint Paul	2
55117	Saint Paul, Little Canada and Maplewood	1
55447	Minneapolis and Plymouth	1
55430	Minneapolis and Brooklyn Center	1
55038	Hugo, Centerville and Lino Lakes	1
55123	Saint Paul and Eagan	1
55106	Saint Paul and Maplewood	1
60637	Chicago, IL	1
55901	Rochester	1
55103	Saint Paul	1
55372	Shakopee and Prior Lake	1
55411	Minneapolis	1
55428	Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal and New Hope	1
55118	Saint Paul, Mendota Heights, Sunfish Lake and West Saint Paul	1
55110	Saint Paul, Dellwood, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township	1
55127	Saint Paul, Little Canada, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Lake	1
55109	Saint Paul, North Saint Paul, Little Canada and Maplewood	1
55125	Saint Paul and Woodbury	1
55116	Saint Paul	1
55419	Minneapolis	1
55108	Saint Paul, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale	1

2. How did you get to the fields/pool?
  - a. Walk: 0 respondents
  - b. Bike: 1 respondent
  - c. Bus: 1 respondent
  - d. Car: 26 respondents
3. How many people were in your car?
  - a. One: 1 respondent
  - b. Two: 5 respondents

- c. More than two: 20 respondents
4. Was there enough parking?
    - a. Yes: 21 respondents
    - b. No: 5 respondents
  5. If improvements were made to pedestrian or bike access or bus service, would it change how you get to Como Park?
    - a. Yes: 3 respondents
    - b. No: 19 respondents
    - c. Maybe: 4 respondents
  6. Did you have any problems getting to the park?
    - a. Yes: 7 respondents
    - b. No: 21 respondents
  7. What problems did you experience?
    - a. Traffic: 6 respondents
    - b. Congestion: 1 respondent
  8. Did you have any problems accessing the pool?
    - a. Yes: 3 respondents
    - b. No: 24 respondents
  9. What problems did you experience?
    - a. Sidewalks: 1 respondent
    - b. Traffic: 1 respondent
    - c. Wayfinding: 1 respondent
  10. What improvements are most needed more at McMurray Fields/Como Pool?
    - a. Roads/circulation: 5 respondents
    - b. Bike trails/sidewalks: 1 respondent
    - c. Sidewalks: 1 respondent
    - d. Lighting: 2 respondents
    - e. Parking: 7 respondents
    - f. Other: 11
      - 1. Crowd control in the line: 1 response
      - 2. Keep bathrooms clean and stocked: 3 responses
      - 3. Water fountain: 1 response
      - 4. More traffic lane: 1 response
      - 5. More traffic lanes: 1 response
      - 6. Separate field and pool parking: 1 response
      - 7. More seating: 1 response
      - 8. Concessions for field: 1 response
      - 9. Wayfinding: 1 response