January 26, 2009
St. Paul Parks and Recreation

Como Park Aquatic Facility Development Program

***Overall Project Goals and Objectives* :**

1. Design an Aquatic Facility which respects and enhances the historical integrity and early 19th century "roots" of Como Park.

- **Use materials complementary to existing park materials such as stone, ornamental metal railings, etc.**
- **Recognize and enhance the historic oak savannah type landscape prevalent within Como Park.**
- **Avoid / minimize use of strong primary colors.**
- **Minimize use of molded plastic/fiberglass landscape and pool elements.**
- **Extend use of historic lantern-style lighting where appropriate.**

2. Develop an Aquatic Facility which respects and enhances its woodland site.

- **Provide new trees/landscape which serve to help integrate facility with its site.**
- **Provide extensive new plantings which enhance the woodland and/or oak savannah feel of the site.**
- **Minimize large expanses of asphalt for parking and concrete for pool deck.**
- **Provide "soft" surfacing materials wherever possible including sand, gravel, grass and artificial turf.**

3. Provide Innovative and Sustainable Design.

- **Use permeable pavement within parking areas and on walkways.**
- **Provide on-site storage of storm water.**
- **Investigate use of "natural pool-filter technology".**
- **Investigate use of solar heating of pool water.**
- **Investigate use of high efficiency LED lighting in pool itself.**
- **Investigate use of artificial turf.**

4. Provide New Vehicular, Pedestrian and Bicycle Access and Parking.

- **Investigate extension of "Como Park Circulator" to pool complex.**
- **Investigate status of Central Corridor LRT access from Lexington Parkway to pool complex.**

- **Re-design / re-align as appropriate, roadways to south of site including Como, Beulah and Jessamine.**
- **Minimize parking conflicts between pool users, picnic area users and athletic field users.**
- **Provide direct pedestrian and bicycle access from both citywide and internal park trail system.**
- **Emphasize bicycle access for neighborhood use.**
- **Provide new vehicular access to parking, athletic fields and outdoor woodland classroom.**
- **Provide bicycle storage**

5. Create a Swimming Facility Which is safe, Family Friendly and Affordable.

- **Provide good visual access for lifeguards to all areas of the swimming environment.**
- **Provide non-slip and low glare walkways and deck surfacing.**
- **Provide some shaded swimming, sitting and picnicking areas.**
- **Provide swimming activities that meet the needs of all ages and all abilities.**
- **Provide large open and sunny spaces as well as small enclosed group spaces.**
- **Minimize maintenance and operations to insure an affordable swim experience.**
- **Provide opportunities for fitness activities.**

6. Design the facility to Include Opportunities for Extended Use and Community Building.

- **Investigate using facility for winter skating.**
- **Design opportunities for after hours events.**
- **Design opportunities for targeted group use by teens and/or the disabled and/or the elderly.**

7. Provide a New Design for the East End of McMurray Fields.

- **Remove existing unofficial softball fields and provide three new regulation size fields.**
- **Provide additional field parking.**
- **Investigate relocation of Como Park tennis courts.**
- **Provide new enhanced vehicular and pedestrian access to fields.**

Specific Aquatic Facility Goals and Objectives :

8. Design Opportunities for Traditional Lap Swimming

- **Provide minimum of 6 lanes for lap swimming.**

- **25 yards/25 meters, 3.5' to 5' deep water**
- **Integrate lap swimming into general swim experience.**
- **Provide opportunity to segregate lap swimming area from the rest of the aquatic facility by using barriers/lap line ropes.**
- **Provide separate lap swimming pool from general swim area.**

9. Provide Design with a "Lazy River" Component.

- **Provide multiple areas to access river.**
- **Provide sitting /observation areas along the river.**
- **Provide opportunities for shade.**
- **Minimize "man-made" look to the river design.**
- **Incorporate opportunities for fitness walking.**
- **Kayaking opportunities/higher current activities**

10. Provide Off Season Opportunities

- **Ice skating**
- **Snow shoeing**

11. Provide Opportunity for Low Height Diving

- **Diving height of up to 2 meters/ Minimum of 10' deep water.**
- **Explore use of diving board vs. integrated platform diving.**
- **Integrate natural features/cliff diving**
- **Integrate rock climbing/zip lines/rope swing**

12. Provide a Realistic Beach Type Zero Entry Pool

- **Natural appearance/not man made**
- **Investigate sand beach**
- **Investigate incorporation of wave action in pool**
- **Provide shade structures over water**

13. Provide Interactive Water Equipment/Activities

- **Interactive play features**
- **Human powered activities**
- **Educational/Woodland Classroom relationship?**
- **Theme/natural/19th century roots?**
- **Family slide/low height/natural (no bright colors)**

14. Non-Water Areas/Deck Space

- **Shade, natural looking/architectural trellis structures**
- **Sand areas/sand volleyball/tot area**
- **Natural sloping amphitheater/music**
- **Deck space/seating areas/intimate spaces (minimize large expanses of hard pavement)**
- **Abundant landscaping**

15. Support Facilities

- **Combination bathhouse/facility offices/concessions**
- **Create facility that provides good visibility to all areas of aquatics area**
- **19th century roots**
- **Utilize natural materials**
- **Sustainable design/green design: solar heat, low flow/zero flow plumbing fixtures, green roof, pervious pavement for parking areas, LED lighting, local materials, etc.**
- **Deck showers/outdoor locker space (minimize indoor bathhouse requirements)**
- **Menu choices: healthy options vs. traditional options**
- **Designated seating area for eating**
- **Entry/ticketing space for patrons**
- **Concessions to serve adjacent activity areas?**
- **All season concessions to serve ice skating/broom ball fields?**
- **All season bathhouse to act as warming shelter?**