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March 2, 2015

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not-for-profit agency
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Visit us online at
www.frogtownfarm.org

Dear Kathleen,

Please accept this letter in support of the Capitol Improvement Budget request for a natural play area for Frogtown Park and Farm. I am the Executive Director of Frogtown Farm, the non-profit organization that manages the 5-acre farm on the adjacent land.

The proposed play area will be an important asset for the neighborhood. The current and closest playground is the Wilder playground at the intersection of Van Buren Avenue and Victoria Street. The playground is 20 years old. Although there is much activity on the site, the playground is outdated and not designed to complement the surrounding natural context.

A new natural play area will be an important addition to the new park and will help realize the collective vision of improving access to green space and promoting environmental stewardship for Frogtown residents.

Sincerely,

Eartha Bell
Executive Director



Frogtown Neighborhood Association (District 7)

685 Minnehaha Avenue West • Saint Paul, MN • 55104
Tel: 651-789-7407 • Fax: 651-789-7482 • www.frogtownmn.org

February 25, 2015

City of Saint Paul
CIB Committee Members

Dear CIB Members,

I am writing as the Executive Director of the Frogtown Neighborhood Association (District 7 Planning Council) to articulate the organization's strong support for CIB request for the nature based play area at Frogtown Park and Farm.

FNA acted as the fiscal agent for Frogtown Farm through its infancy and early development and have been vocal cheerleaders for both the Park and Farm's evolution. The nature based play area is a critical feature of the Park and Farm, as it will cater to our young children.

Please support this important project.

Sincerely,



Caty Royce
Executive Director

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



Minnesota Office
2610 University Ave.
Suite 300
St. Paul, MN
55114
T. (651) 917-2240
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www.tpl.org

March 2, 2015

Ms. Kathleen Anglo
Design and Construction
St. Paul Parks and Recreation
25 W. 4th Street, 400 CHA
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Kathleen:

The Trust for Public Land is happy to submit this letter of support for the 2016/2017 CIB proposal to install nature-based play facilities at ***Frogtown Park and Farm.***

This project benefits the Frogtown and larger community by providing much-needed public green space. Specifically, the new nature-based play area proposed for CIB funding will offer Frogtown's approximately 7,000 children close-to-home access to safe and enriching mode of play. Research has demonstrated that natural playgrounds provide children with more opportunities than typical pre-formed playgrounds to develop gross-motor skills, contributes to overall physical, cognitive, and emotional development of children, helps them score higher on tests for concentration and self-discipline, helps them experience more diverse play, and helps them exhibit less aggressive behavior.

As the organization that worked collaboratively with the City of St. Paul on the initiative to turn this underused vacant space into a St. Paul park, we are pleased to address the need for more parkland -- before this park, Frogtown had the lowest amount of green space per child (.006 acres per child) in all of Saint Paul. The nature-based play area of Frogtown Park and Farm will provide innovative play aspects to the park that will be beneficial to the Frogtown neighborhood, especially children, and we urge its completion.

Sincerely,

Susan Schmidt
State Director
The Trust for Public Land, Minnesota Office





February 25, 2015

RE: ***Frogtown Park Nature-Based Play Space***

Frogtown Green is a coalition of neighbors and residents of Saint Paul's most diverse, low income neighborhood. We are committed to making Frogtown the greenest, healthiest and most beautiful community in Saint Paul.

On behalf of Frogtown's families and children, Frogtown Green emphatically supports the proposal to update a play area and add nature-based play infrastructure to Frogtown Park & Farm, Saint Paul's newest (and as yet completely undeveloped) city park.

Frogtown has the distinction of having the most kids and the least greenspace, per capita, of any neighborhood in Saint Paul. This disparity has been partially addressed by the acquisition of the 12.7 acres of land that make up the new park.

However, Frogtown Park & Farm is envisioned by our community as a space where children and families can go to learn about food, farming and nature. A detailed plan for a creative and exciting children's nature-based play space was vetted by hundreds of community members, but has yet to be realized. The mere acquisition of land is not enough to fulfill the promise of Frogtown Park and Farm for our neighborhood.

The proposed play space—which includes an exciting embedded hillside slide!— will replace outdated and unsafe playground equipment that is decades old. It will be an attraction city-wide, as well as a beloved part of our newest park. Please support its funding.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ohmans, MPH
35-year Frogtown resident
Volunteer coordinator, Frogtown Green

From: [Carreen Heegaard](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [Patricia Ohmans](#)
Subject: Frog town"s Nature Play Space
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 12:15:27 PM

Greetings Kathleen-

I cannot attend tonight's meeting but want to voice support for the Frogtown Park Nature Play Space. I am a St.Paul resident and although I do not live in Frogtown I have been involved with the efforts for Frogtown Park since it began and think this is an essential building block for it's success.

My children attended The Friend's School and I saw how essential the Arboretum park was to that school's science curriculum as well as the general need for children to have large motor play in a thoughtfully designed space within easy reach. I have a Master's Degree in Architecture and Urban Design and used to work for Minneapolis Community Development Agency. I share this as background for my interest in the project and my values and priorities for our shared urban environment.

Frogtown Park's Nature Play Space is an asset to the neighborhood and to St.Paul overall, thank you for your efforts on behalf of St.Paul. We have a great city!

Cheers!
Carreen Heegaard
cpheegaard@mac.com

From: [David/Liz Colwell](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Frogtown Farm and Park
Date: Sunday, March 01, 2015 6:30:28 PM

Dear Kathleen,

As you consider funding for CIB projects, please prioritize the children's nature play area and slide that our Frogtown community has overwhelmingly voted to become part of our eagerly awaited park. We had a thorough process of determining how this acreage would best serve our community and the city, and we really want the nature play area to be funded.

Sincerely,

Liz and Dave Colwell
512 Charles Avenue

From: [nancy hall](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Frogtown Farm, Nature Based Play Space
Date: Sunday, March 01, 2015 6:56:03 PM

I support the nature-based play space in Frogtown Park & Farm.
Frogtown resident of 36 years. Nancy Hall

From: [Betsy Schaefer Roob](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Frogtown Park & Farm nature-based play space
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 10:11:12 AM

Hi Kathleen,
Hope you're doing well!
I support the nature-based play space in Frogtown Park and Farm.
Thanks :)
Betsy

From: [Lory Perryman](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Frogtown Park and Farm
Date: Sunday, March 01, 2015 7:14:24 PM

Kathleen –

I live 2 blocks from the Frogtown Park and Farm and have seen proposed plans for the area. While I am over 60 and beyond getting on playground equipment myself, I sure hope that we build in lots of places for young people to explore, discover and play – including a fabulous slide on what's now called Wilder Hill.

Thanks for your work on this vital project.

Lory Perryman
1061 Blair Ave.
St. Paul 55104

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From: [Emily Seru](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Frogtown Park Nature-Based Play Space
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 9:43:21 AM

Dear Kathleen,

I am a ten-year Frogtown resident writing to express my enthusiastic support for the updated play area and nature-based play space at the site of our newest City Park. My six year old son and I often leave our neighborhood in search of safe and engaging city parks and play areas because there is so little available in our own neighborhood. The current play structure at Frogtown Park is outdated, unsafe, and covered in offensive graffiti. When I told my son, August, that they might be building a slide into the side of "the big hill" his face lit up with excitement. He had so many questions. This park has had so much community input and support. I for one, am done giving ideas and really want to see something built!!

Thank you for all of your time and care in developing our newest city park.

Emily Seru
825 Charles Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104
612-275-4683

From: [Jennifer Nowatzki](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: I support the natural play area at Frogtown park and farm
Date: Sunday, March 01, 2015 6:28:28 PM

Please consider including this in the park area.

From: [seitu jones](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: letter of support
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 11:08:48 AM

Dear Kathleen,

I'm writing this note to express my support for Capitol Improvement Budget request for a natural play area for the new Frogtown Park and Farm. I've been actively engaged in efforts to green Frogtown for over fifteen years and am now working with a group of neighbors who are establishing a farm in the City of St. Paul's newest park.

All too often Frogtown has been overlooked for new neighborhood assets and park amenities. With the least amount of land dedicated to parks and the least amount of tree canopy coverage than any other neighborhood in St. Paul, I am a firm advocate in developing new green assets.

The current and closest playground is the Wilder Playground at the Van Buren Avenue and Victoria Street intersection. While the much used playground sees a great deal of activity, it unfortunately is almost 20 years old and represents an older perspective on children's play experiences. Built at a time when plastic and metal playground equipment was not designed to compliment the surrounding natural context and was even more dangerous to use, the Wilder Playground is obsolete.

A new nature play area in the new Frogtown Park and Farm will connect children directly to the natural surroundings of the third highest point in St. Paul. Designed to fit into the landscape the nature play area will use boulders, logs, landforms and plantings to spur more imagination, engagement and cooperation than an artificial environment.

A new nature play area will fit nicely into the collective vision of embracing and promoting a new sense of environmental stewardship among Frogtown residents. A new nature play area will create a green asset that will encourage development and a greater sense of well-being among neighbors.

thanks,

seitu

seitu kenneth jones
visual artist
629 kent street
saint paul, mn 55103
651-470-7554

From: [Jessica Ainsworth](#)
To: [Anglo, Kathleen \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Support for the play area @ Frogtown Farm
Date: Sunday, March 01, 2015 5:46:12 PM

Kathleen,

I live in the neighborhood and cannot wait for Frogtown Farm to develop. A key feature of that is the play space. That slide will make our sledding hill a year round destination for neighborhood kids. My 4 year-old is so excited to play there.

Please support the nature based play at Frogtown Farm.

Best,

Jessica Ainsworth-Truong
Co-owner Ngon Bistro
Assistant Professor of Interior Design - Art Institute International MN