



UNION PARK DISTRICT COUNCIL

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March 4, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget Committee
c/o John McCarthy, Senior Budget Analyst
City of Saint Paul – Office of Financial Services
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Subject: CIB Proposal for Merriam Park Improvements

The Union Park District Council strongly supports and is co-sponsoring this CIB request. This is the third consecutive CIB request submitted for Merriam Park. This proposal addresses the major priorities residents insist are required to provide a safe and enjoyable park for people of all ages.

As one of our oldest and most used park spaces in Saint Paul and the Union Park district, Merriam Park is well overdue for upgrades. In 2008, a Master Plan for the park was created and supported by the City Parks department. Now, the playground is 8th on the list of City parks in need of replacement. Safety on the playground is a primary concern due to aging equipment and ADA modifications and inclusions that are needed.

In keeping with City parks plans to include more water features, this request includes a splash pad incorporated with the updated playground. This side of town does not have a water feature, and both Merriam Park residents and the 2008 Master Plan have identified it as an important park improvement. Consistent with City parks plans to offer more “extreme” sports opportunities is the need to modernize the modular skate park, which already draws thousands of skaters monthly from around the city. This wood equipment is over a decade old, poses a safety concern, and is in serious need of replacement with an in-ground concrete structure, which would require less maintenance and is strongly supported by users and residents.

This request also addresses a much-needed improved entrance at Prior Avenue and the repair of an overused field that serves soccer, softball and baseball uses, along with other uses by students from Four Seasons elementary, St. Marks Elementary, and Ramsey Middle School.

Merriam Park is truly a beautiful Saint Paul amenity in dire need of improvements. The residents of Union Park encourage and appreciate your support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Julie Reiter, Executive Director
Union Park District Council