



Highland Groveland Recreation Association

2136 Ford Parkway #233
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-1863
651-699-9898

DATE: March 13, 2015

TO: Capital Improvement Budget Task Force

RE: Victoria Park Restroom and Picnic Shelter

The Highland Groveland Recreation Association (HGRA) supports the Department of Parks and Recreation CIB proposal to design and construct a picnic shelter and restrooms at Victoria Park.

HGRA provides recreational sports programs (baseball, soccer and track) for almost 2,200 youth in the Highland, Groveland and other neighborhoods in the City of Saint Paul. A number of our participants reside in the West 7th neighborhood but choose to play in HGRA programs due to a combination of the lack of space and, consequently, limited programming for those activities in their own neighborhood. Attached is a map of 39 households in the Fort Road Federation area alone that participated in HGRA in 2011.

Personally, I served as one of the Youth Recreation representatives on the Victoria Park Design Advisory Committee which helped develop the Victoria Park Master Plan. I look forward to the future development of the proposed multi-use athletic field which would provide opportunities for the West 7th neighborhood to offer recreational sports programs for youth either on its own or in conjunction with HGRA.

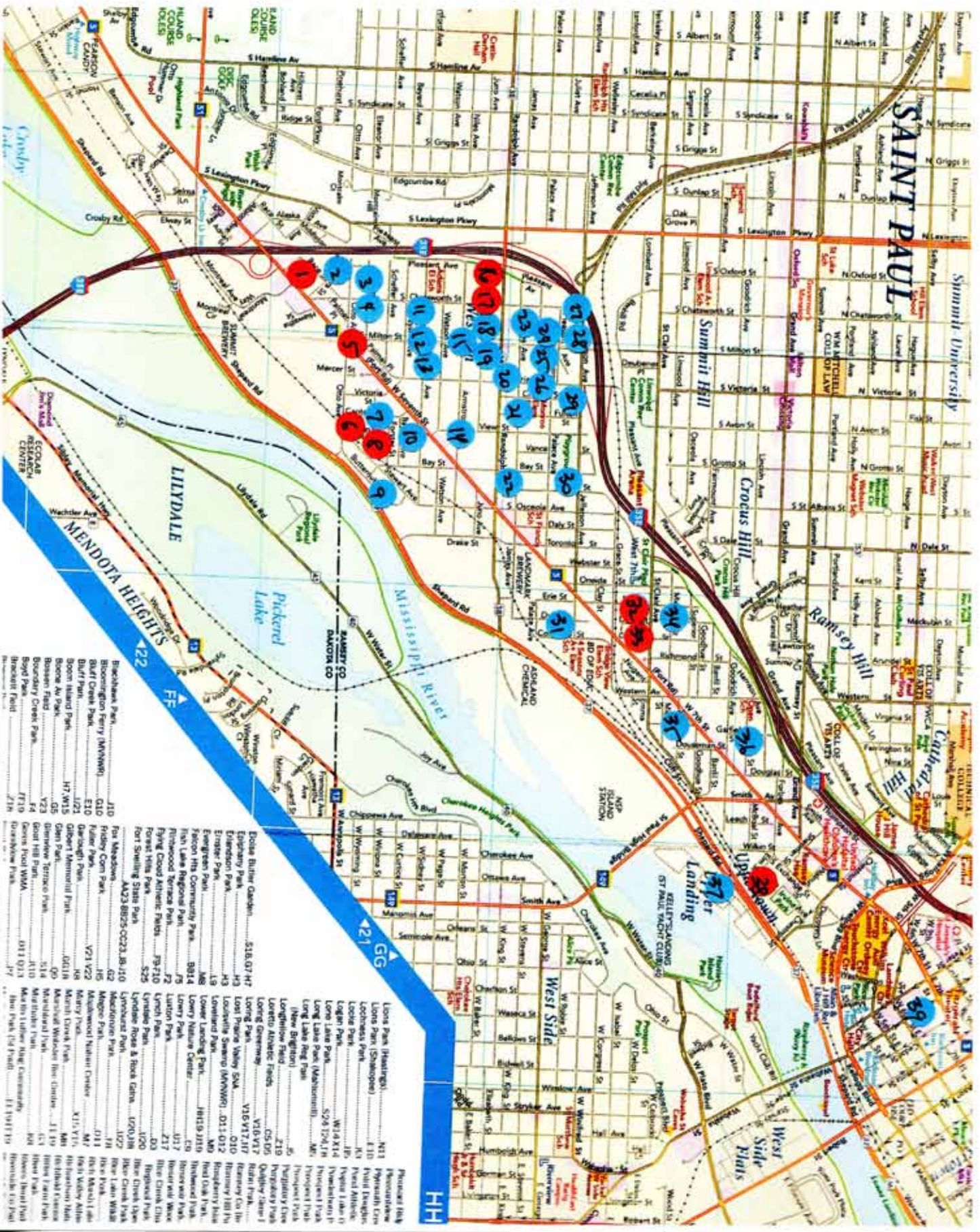
This proposal helps address the need for public restrooms which will be an essential amenity for users of the athletic field in addition to users of the passive park features.

Our numbers attest to the demand for open space that allows for safe and enjoyable athletic activities for youth. Unfortunately, the Highland-Groveland area also has very limited open space for these activities. With the development of additional housing units in the West 7th neighborhood as well as in Highland-Groveland, the pressure on existing field space will only be greater which may limit the numbers who can participate in our programs.

Sincerely,

Bill Driver, President

Cc: Alice Messer, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation



- Legend:**
- 110 Breckbach Park
 - 111 Brockington Ferry (MNWNR)
 - 112 Bluff Creek Park
 - 113 Boom Island Park
 - 114 Boone Av Park
 - 115 Bassett Field
 - 116 Boundary Creek Park
 - 117 Boyl Park
 - 118 Brentwood Park
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From: [Dan Pederson](#)
To: [Messer, Alice \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Re: Draft CIB Request - Victoria Park
Date: Saturday, December 20, 2014 11:13:12 AM

I am writing this in support of the CIB proposal for Victoria Park.

I am impressed that the planned improvements would be valuable to the park's neighborhood and to the St. Paul parks system. The plan is faithful to the wants and needs expressed in planning meetings; park designers were very careful to include all input throughout the design process and analyze the input against site conditions to produce the park's master plan.

I understand that several projects are competing for this funding but I want to emphasize that the potential of this unique park site should set it apart from others. As is likely the case with most park funding proposals, this park would provide open green space as well as much needed recreational and athletic elements. This beautiful site also offers bluffs with exposed stone, panoramic views of the river, trails winding through trees and wildlife and several hundred feet of riverfront.

Finally, this park would provide an open grassy area large enough on which to play sports for which there are currently no fields large enough in St. Paul to use. In particular, Irish hurling and Gaelic football. The Twin Cities Robert Emmet Irish Hurling club is a St. Paul based 501c3 nonprofit organization of approximately 90 members. We have a coed league, we offer free programs and equipment use for children and we are looking for a field to use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Pederson
Chair, Twin Cities Robert Emmet Hurling Club

On Dec 15, 2014, at 8:35 AM, "Messer, Alice (CI-StPaul)"
<alice.messer@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Hello –

Please find a draft CIB proposal request attached for Victoria Park. As discussed in the previous Design Advisory Committee meeting, Parks will be requesting funding for a picnic shelter and/or public restroom building on the south side of Victoria Park. The Committee was in agreement for the proposal. If you have time during this busy holiday season, please review and let me know if you have any comments by Monday, December 22nd.

Letters of support and participation at the CIB presentation are effective ways of demonstrating the importance of the CIB request. Please consider sending a letter of support and attending the presentation in early 2015. I will be sending a follow up

Messer, Alice (CI-StPaul)

From: Tonya Johnson-Nicholie <crowjyne@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Messer, Alice (CI-StPaul); Betty Moran; Paula Faughender
Subject: Victoria Park CIB Funding

Dear CIB Committee,

We in the neighborhood have been waiting for more than a decade for this version of the park to come into being. Twenty years ago we thought that we would have a small block park in the middle of a new neighborhood. And we were ecstatic about finally getting a park that a train line didn't run through. In fact we haven't ever had a developed park in this West Seventh neighborhood that dates from the 1880's. So a small neighborhood park was welcome addition. With the way that the development of Victoria Park worked out we are even more excited about a large urban park that connects a neighborhood on the bluff to the Mighty Mississippi. This is a unique opportunity in a developed urban core. Not only are we building a park that connects the neighborhood and neighboring institutions to structured activities. We can connect with the nature based activities right in the neighborhood grid and also have safe paths to the river.

We understand that we are midway though the process of cleaning and developing the park. We look forward to developing a park that supports the old and new business, residential and institutional neighbors in the Victoria Park neighborhood.

Thank you,
Tonya Nicholie
Canton St. St. Paul
Committee Co-Chair Victoria Park Master Planning Process

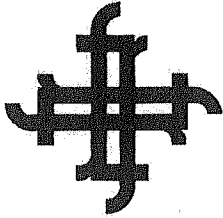
request once the presentation date is set.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best,
Alice

Alice Messer
Landscape Architect
City of Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation
400 City Hall Annex, 25 West 4th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102
(651) 266-6412 direct

<DRAFT-2016-17 Proposal Victoria Park.docx>



West 7th/Fort Road Federation

974 West 7th Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

651-298-5599

FortRoadFederation.org

February 26, 2015

Community Facilities Task Force
Capital Improvement Budget
City of Saint Paul
700 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Members,

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation strongly supports two funding requests submitted by the Parks and Rec Department; namely Palace Community Center site improvements and Victoria Park restroom and picnic shelter.

Both of these projects were seen as critical public investments in West 7th and the City of Saint Paul many years ago.

We strongly encourage you to support funding for these two great projects.

Sincerely,

Shawn Devine, President



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Ste. 105
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1256

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 9, 2015

Jody Martinez
Manager Design and Construction
400 City Hall Annex
25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Victoria Park Restroom and Shelter CIB request

Dear Ms. Martinez:

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to provide a letter of support for the Victoria Park Restroom and Shelter CIB request. The southern portion of Victoria Park is completely within the boundary of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA). The MNRRA was established by Congress in 1988 to preserve, protect, and enhance the significant values of the Mississippi River Corridor in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

We actively participated as a technical advisor in the development of the Victoria Park Master Plan, and feel it will achieve many of the recreation and visitor access goals identified in our Comprehensive Management Plan. Providing essential amenities such as a restroom and picnic shelter will greatly enhance the visitor experience and use of the park.

The proposed project will be beneficial the MNRRA and the community, and we support its completion.

Sincerely,

for John Anfinson
Superintendent



The Verbrugges
766 Bayard Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102

March 5, 2015

RE: *Victoria Park Restroom and Picnic Shelter*

The Verbrugge Family of Bayard Avenue is happy to submit this letter of support for the 2016/2017 CIB proposal to upgrade the facilities at Victoria Park.

This project benefits our community in the following ways:

1. The restroom and picnic shelter will be the first public structure on the sprawling stretch of land that neighborhood residents have waited decades for a chance to explore and utilize.
2. The restroom and picnic shelter will provide a rest stop for families with young children, like our own, who are regular visitors to the nearby Nova Academy playground and who widely stroll about the neighborhood for exercise and recreation.

The proposed project will be beneficial to the Victoria Park neighborhood, the West 7th community, and Saint Paul on the whole, and we urge its completion.

Sincerely,
Jennifer, Allen, Alice & Louisa Verbrugge

Jennifer, Allen, Alice, Louisa



December 18, 2014

29TH ANNIVERSARY
1985-2014

1660 Laurel Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
612-703-9044
www.friendsoftheparks.org

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Jody Martinez
City of St. Paul Parks & Recreation
400 City Hall Annex
25 West Fourth Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(Sent Via Email to: Jody.Martinez@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

Re: CIB Request for Victoria Park

Dear Jody:

As the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County representative to the Victoria Park Taskforce, I am writing this letter to you in support of the application you have made for CIB funding for the design construction of a picnic shelter, restroom and associated site amenities to be located in the southern half of the Victoria Park Master Plan. The Board of the Friends of the Parks and Trails passed a Resolution on December 18, 2014 supporting this application for CIB funds for this specific project.

Yours truly,

Friends of the Parks and Trails
St. Paul and Ramsey County



Pierre N. Regnier

Copy: Jeanne Weigum, President
Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County

Shirley Erstad, Executive Director
Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County