



## City of Saint Paul Capital Budget Proposal

Funding years 2022-2023

Thank you for your interest in the Saint Paul Capital Improvement Budget. Through the capital improvement budget process, we strive to reflect and uphold the values of our community. Our funding decisions are guided by the principles of equity and inclusion, strategic investments, and fiscal responsibility.

Please respond to each question listed below as it applies to your project. Please do not submit your proposal until the application is complete.

---

**Before proceeding with the application, please read and indicate your awareness of the following requirements.**

**ADA requirements available at: <https://www.ada.gov>**

I am aware of ADA requirements.

**CERT requirements available at: <https://cert.smwbe.com/>**

I am aware of CERT requirements.

**Saint Paul's public art ordinance available at: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/financial-services/public-art-ordinance-program>**

I am aware of the City's public art ordinance.



Contact Information

Contact Person: Alice Messer, Manager Design and Construction

Contact Phone: 651-266-6412

Contact Email: [alice.messer@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:alice.messer@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

Project Overview

1. Project Title:

Merriam Park Improvements

2. Brief (1-2 sentence) Summary of Project:

Removal and replacement of an existing play area and improvements to existing skate park.

3. Project Location:

Merriam Park

2000 St. Anthony Avenue

Saint Paul, MN 55104

4. Affected Ward(s): *See the [Saint Paul District Council and Ward Lookup](#)*

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 7 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 |                                 |

5. Affected Neighborhood District Council(s): *See the [Saint Paul District Council and Ward Lookup](#)*

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 6  | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 11            | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 7  | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 12            | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 8  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Council 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Citywide            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 9  | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 14            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> District Council 15            |  |

6. Estimated Project Completion Date:

2023/2024



7. Submitting Department:

Department of Parks and Recreation

8. Department Priority (numerical priority out of total submitted projects, ex. 3 of 6):

Merriam Park Play Area is ranked #3 for replacement and the existing skate park is one of two skate parks within the City of Saint Paul.

9. Which category best describes your project?

- Buildings
- Streets and Utilities
- Residential and Economic Development
- Parks and Trails
- Other

#### Project Description

10. Please describe the project including a physical description of the project noting important sub-elements and information on project timing and/or phasing.

Funding request is to renovate the existing 27 year old play area and skate park that has reached the end of its life. The play area is ranked #3 for renovation and skate park is one of two within the City of Saint Paul. The modular skate systems are not meant to last 16 + years and reoccurring repairs can only provide a band aid for so long

#### Purpose and Justification

11. Please provide pertinent information on the purpose and justification for this project. Please consider the following questions in your response:

- Why is this project important? (e.g. opportunity for collaboration, condition, significant need, etc.)
- What problem is this project trying to solve?
- What benefits does it provide to residents or users? What is the historical context of this project?
- Is this a new project, an improvement or expansion project, or maintenance on an existing asset?
- Does this project address any specific health and safety concerns?
- Does this project address an inequity or otherwise support diversity and inclusion?

Improvements to Merriam Park has been before the CIB for numerous funding cycles as the need is so great for the park. Parks received funding to develop a master plan for the park and have been working hard to secure funding for implementation since 2008.



**SAINT PAUL**  
**MINNESOTA**

The need to renovate the play area and skate park are essential due to years of deferred maintenance. The play area is one of the oldest play areas in the system and demand for skate boarding continues to increase across the city.

Providing renovated facilities is essential to supporting the community around Merriam Park.



Funding Request

Anticipated Funding Source*	Prior 5 Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
[Eg. Grants]							
[Eg. Bonds]		\$1,500,000					
<b>Total</b>		\$1,500,000					

Anticipated Expenses*	Prior 5 Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
[Eg. Design]		\$270,000					
[Eg. Construction]		\$1,230,000					
<b>Total</b>		\$1,500,000					

**\*Add rows if needed.**

Additional comments regarding funding request:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Fiscal Responsibility

12. Have grants or other matching funds for this project been secured?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain: City of Stake has secured funding for the design of a skate park thru a State bonding request. Approximate amount is \$50,000.

13. How does this project further City goals of fiscal responsibility? As applicable, include details such as:

- Status and timing details of grants applied for and/or secured or other non-City funding sources.
- Estimated annual increase or decrease in operating costs for this project.
- How operating cost increases or decreases were determined (include details such as personnel costs, materials, maintenance, contracts, energy savings, etc.).
- If new infrastructure, how the department will pay for the increased operating costs.
- Whether the project is currently underway.
- If/how the project prevents a measurable financial loss or reduces future expenses.
- If/how the project contributes to growth in the City's tax base.

Investment in park and community centers is critical for mental and physical health. Merriam Park is a unique space in that it provides amenities for all age groups. Younger park



users will benefit from the play area and the skate park provides a recreational amenity that spans larger age groups. Beginning skateboarder to older adults will use the skatepark and develop relationships through a shared space and recreational activity.

Partnership with City of Skate will not only provide financial investment into the space through the design process, it will also help engage the skateboard community directly in the design process which is critical to its success.

### Condition

14. Facility/Pavement Condition Index: Play area ranked #3 for replacement and skatepark is beyond useful life.

15. Expected useful life of the project: 15-20 years

16. Please elaborate on any issues relating to condition. Consider things such as:

- Whether/how this project remediates health or safety issues that pose a danger to users.
- Whether/how this project addresses code violations or other mandates or legal requirements.

Play area and skatepark reflect safety issues due to prolonged use.

### Usage

17. Describe the current and potential usage of this project, using the following questions as a guide:

- If this is an existing asset, who currently uses it?
- How is it used?
- Who might use it if this project is funded?
- How will this project/improvement meet the needs of the surrounding community/those who do or will use it?

Merriam Park has 15,348 residents living within a 1-mile radius with 18% identifying as BIPOC and 48.1% of households having children. The park is heavily used by residents and many year-round amenities are provided with baseball, soccer, tennis, picnicking, sledding, play area and a skatepark.

Investment in one of the oldest play areas and skateparks in the city is highly needed. Demand for skateparks continues to grow and investment in quality skateparks will alleviate impacts to city property not intended for skating. The City recently placed mobile skate ramps at the refrigerated ice ramps at Palace Recreation Center in the summer months to active previously “dead” space. This has been highly successful and reflects the need for improved skate facilities in Saint Paul.



### Equity and Inclusion

The City of Saint Paul and the Capital Improvement Budget Committee are committed to advancing equity and inclusion in Saint Paul.

### Economic Impact

18. Describe the economic development impact of the project, using the following questions as a guide:

- How does this project create jobs?
- How does this project promote business opportunities?
- How does this promote economic development in underserved or underdeveloped neighborhoods?

Investment in youth and investment in parks and open space is critical to mental and physical health. The skatepark at Merriam Park is a regional destination and will positively impact youth and older skateboarders across the city.

### Community Impact

19. Please describe the impact this project will have on the community. As applicable, address issues such as:

- Potential to enhance neighborhood stability or quality of life
- Right fit (supports or enhances the cultural characteristics of the surrounding community)
- Proximity to Area of Concentrated Poverty where 50% or more of residents are people of color (ACP50)
- Art/aesthetics
- Unmet need
- Accessibility
- Transportation
- Potential long term positive/negative effects on community
- Historical or cultural significance of asset
- Public safety
- Equitable and inclusive design

Investment will address safety and access needs at the play area and skatepark. In addition, the design process for the play area and skatepark will reflect inclusive and equitable design standards.

### Strategic Investment

20. How does this project further City goals of strategic investment? As applicable, include details such as:

- Collaborative arrangements with outside project partners, including who they are and what their role is with the project.
- Collaborative arrangements with other City departments for this project (example: bundling materials).
- How this project promotes innovation (incorporates new technology, uses resources strategically, etc.).



- How this project takes climate change/environmental sustainability/energy efficiency into account.
- How this project complies with a need or goal identified in an adopted City or neighborhood plan.

Leveraging design funds from City of Skate reflects the strong need for improved skatepark facilities in Saint Paul. Having City funds to support construction after the design process will result in collaborative approach between the City and the community.

In addition, constructing the skatepark and play area in tandem will reflect considerable investment in a park space with long overdue maintenance. There are cost efficiencies in having the projects occur together as material cost will decrease.

#### Other

What else you would like to tell us about this project that was not addressed in the questions above?

Click or tap here to enter text.

---