Planning for the Future of Cleveland Park:
A Community Led Vision

Prepared in partnership with
Cleveland Neighborhood Association

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Residents of Cleveland Neighborhood
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PROJECT GOALS

The Cleveland Neighborhood Association partnered with a team from the University of Minnesota Landscape Architecture Department to engage community members who use Cleveland Park to envision a new park and become aware and interested in current neighborhood projects.

The goal of this project is to get people thinking about this park space and show new ideas for the potential of this public space. The ideas expressed in this booklet are intended to get people excited about possibilities at Cleveland Park.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF CLEVELAND PARK ACTION PLAN

SCHEDULE:

**WEEK 1**
- Aug 27 - Sept 2

**WEEK 2**
- Sept 3 - Sept 9

**WEEK 3**
- Sept 10 - Sept 16

**WEEK 4**
- Sept 17 - Sept 23

**WEEK 5**
- Sept 24 - Sept 30

**WEEK 6**
- Oct 1 - Oct 7

**WEEK 7**
- Oct 8 - Oct 14

**WEEK 8**
- Oct 15 - Oct 21

**WEEK 9**
- Oct 22 - Oct 28

**WEEK 10**
- Oct 29 - Nov 4

**WEEK 11**
- Nov 5 - Nov 11

**WEEK 12**
- Nov 12 - Nov 18

**WEEK 13**
- Nov 19 - Nov 25

**WEEK 14**
- Nov 26 - Dec 2

**WEEK 15**
- Dec 3 - Dec 9

**WEEK 16**
- Dec 10 - Dec 16

**WEEK 17**
- Dec 17 - Dec 23

**WEEK 18**
- Dec 24 - Dec 30

**WEEK 19**
- Dec 31 - Jan 6

**WEEK 20**
- Jan 6 - Jan 9
PROCESS SUMMARY

Site Analysis - The first stage of the process included studying the current site conditions to determine opportunities and constraints for design. Also design precedents and options were compiled.

Parties in the Park - The second stage of the process included hosting 3 Parties in the Park. These parties showed programming possibilities for the park, we conducted surveys and interviews to get people’s opinions about the park and information on how the park is generally used. We also got to know some community members and had refreshments.

Concept Designs - After the Parties in the Park we drew up some design options based on feedback we got during the community engagement period.

Community Meeting - We showed community members the concept designs and had a deeper discussion about programming elements and design.

Final Schematic Design - A Final Schematic Design was created based on feedback from the Community Meeting.
CURRENT VEGETATION AT CLEVELAND PARK

Cleveland Park is vegetated with trees and lawn. Most of the trees are deciduous, there are a few flowering trees, shown in pink, and the darker green trees are evergreens. The size of the tree circle corresponds with the size of the tree. The most mature trees are over 40 feet tall.
CURRENT HYDROLOGY AT CLEVELAND PARK

Most of the water at Cleveland Park drains to the center of the park where a drain is located. The water that enters the street does so by way of the alley or the N 33 Ave connection. Locations marked in green could potentially be used for raingardens for the mitigation of the quantity of stormwater runoff entering into the streets and adding to the problem of local flooding on the corner of Penn Ave and N 33rd Ave.
SITE ANALYSIS - EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE/USE

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AT CLEVELAND PARK

Cleveland Park has two playgrounds, a splashpad, two half-courts for basketball, a baseball diamond, horseshoes, shuffleboard, and a park building.

DESIGN POSSIBILITIES

- sculptural paths
- play areas
- integrated art and play
- gathering/entertainment space
- community art
- bike repair stations
- play mounds
- exercise park
- food trucks
- outdoor musical instruments
- outdoor market
- movies in the park
- play net
- skate park
- full court basketball
Cleveland Park is smaller than all of the parks in the vicinity. This is the reason why less programming options are offered here. All of the parks that offer sporting options have a baseball diamond. The larger parks that offer indoor activities have more year-round usership.

The map below shows a regulation size football field with a dotted red line at Cleveland Park. The second map shows the size of a full-size basketball court on the site.

POSSIBILITIES
FUTURE PLANS NEAR CLEVELAND PARK

Currently there are plans to develop the corner of Penn and Lowry as well as a bike connection proposal for N 33rd Ave. Also there is an existing masterplan for Lucy Craft Laney School with increased programming.

POSSIBLE DESIGN CONNECTIONS

- connection to Lucy Laney School
- bike path between school and park
- connection to Penn/Lowry
SITE ANALYSIS - ENTRANCES/CIRCULATION/PARKING

Cleveland Park has one entrance sign between itself and Lucy Craft Laney School. Most people enter from Queen Avenue or the bus lane next to the school. There is no parking on the site, only street parking on Russell Avenue. Sometimes parking will overflow to the lot at the school.

A heavy row of trees creates a separation from Penn and Lowry Avenues and the alleyway and business parking lot. The possibilities below show a parking option in yellow and pathway connections in pink.

POSSIBILITIES
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - PARTIES IN THE PARK

The Parties in the Park showed images of park options, a model of the park with moveable pieces and surveys. People were asked to write their opinions on the boards and move around pieces of the model to show how they would design the park. The exercises were meant to get people thinking about new possibilities and to be creative. The surveys discovered that the general age group for the park is between 10-19 and most people use the basketball courts or the playground, or they come to talk to friends.
After the Parties in the Park, a few design concepts were drawn up and presented to a small focus group of community members. A summary of topics discussed during this period are listed below.

ACTIVE PARK
NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
BASKETBALL COURTS
BIKE/SKATE PARK
HIDDEN SPACES
FAMILY SPACES
ENTRANCE
SPORTS PROGRAM
NEW PATHS
POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO PENN/LOWERY
CONNECTION TO LUCY LANEY
SEATING AREAS - FAMILY SPACES
SAFETY/LIGHTING
BRIGHT/COLORFUL
STAFFED BUILDING
UPDATED FACILITIES (BATHROOMS, FOUNTAINS)
CONCEPT DESIGN 1

1. 2 FULL BASKETBALL COURTS
2. NEW PLAYGROUNDS
3. NEW SPLASHPAD
4. OUTDOOR EXERCISE PARK
5. AMPHITHEATER
6. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
7. RAIN GARDEN
8. SHADE GARDEN
9. UPDATED SEATING AREA
10. NEW GRILLS
11. FOOD TRUCKS
12. COMMUNITY GARDEN
13. PARK ENTRANCE/ SIGN
14. OPEN SPACE
**CONCEPT DESIGN 2**

1. **2 FULL BASKETBALL COURTS**
2. **NEW PLAYGROUNDS**
3. **NEW SPLASHPAD**
4. **OUTDOOR EXERCISE PARK**
5. **AMPHITHEATER**
6. **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**
7. **SEATING AREAS**
8. **ENTRY GARDEN**
9. **PAVILION + PICNIC TABLES**
10. **NEW GRILLS**
11. **FOOD TRUCKS**
12. **BIKE/SKATE PARK**
13. **OPEN SPACE**
14. **ENTRY SIGN/GARDEN**

- **Community Garden**: Community can grow vegetables, also acts as an easy garden.
- **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**: Instruments near the stage/amphitheater can be used for play or performances.
- **OUTDOOR EXERCISE PARK**: Rain garden collects water from alley and helps prevent local flooding.
- **NEW PLAYGROUND**: New playground can be used for small family events and hanging out.
- **NEW SPLASHPAD**: Shade garden creates a boundary and barrier for the park to replace the fence.
- **AMPHITHEATER**: Amphitheater/stage can be used for play and performances.
- **FOOD TRUCKS**: Picnic tables can be set up where food trucks can park on weekends.
- **NEW HOME/LOWRY AVE**: Updated playground for younger children.
- **NEW SPLASHPAD**: New splashpad can be used by many ages.
- **NEW PLAYGROUND**: New playground can be used by many ages.
- **MAIN GARDEN**: Community can grow vegetables, also acts as an easy garden.
- **ENTRY SIGN/GARDEN**: Open space up to the neighborhood and is more inviting.
- **OPEN SPACE**: Open space can be used for outdoor movies, soccer, other events.
- **OUTDOOR EXERCISE**: Open space is open and visible, but doesn’t allow people to hang out behind buildings.
- **NEW PLAYGROUND**: New playground can be used for play or performances.
- **SHADE GARDEN**: Shade garden creates a boundary and barrier for the park to replace the fence.
- **UPDATED SEATING AREAS**: Community can grow vegetables, also acts as an easy garden.
- **ENTRY GARDEN**: Entry sign and removal of baseball fence open the park up to the neighborhood and is more inviting.
- **NEW GRILLS**: Updated grills for small family events and hanging out.
- **FOOD TRUCKS**: Picnic tables can be set up where food trucks can park on weekends.
- **NEW PLAYGROUND**: New playground can be used by many ages.
- **NEW SPLASHPAD**: New splashpad can be used by many ages.
- **OPEN SPACE**: Open space is open and visible, but doesn’t allow people to hang out behind buildings.
- **ENTRY SIGN/GARDEN**: Entry sign and removal of baseball fence open the park up to the neighborhood and is more inviting.
be healthy and have fun at the same time!

Path connecting to park allows for kids to ride bikes all around the park.

One court with short hoops, the other with taller hoops for use by many ages.

Entry sign

30,000 sq. ft bike/skate park

15,000 sq. ft bike/skate park

2 full courts

Outdoor Exercise Park

Outdoor Instruments near the stage/amphitheater can be used for play or performances.

Amphitheater/stage can be used for play and performances and shows.

Amphitheater + Music + Movies

Movies in the Park

Seating around the building

New Pavilions with bright seating + new grills

Additional concepts

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The Parties in the Park and the Community Meeting were very helpful in determining what people were interested in seeing at Cleveland Park. People really expressed wanting to see an active and safe park that is a fun place for kids to come and be active while also providing a place for adults to walk through with their dogs or have picnics with the family. Also, the park is described as very cut off from the rest of the neighborhood, almost hidden. There was disagreement about exactly what programming elements should stay or go. For example, some people wanted to get rid of the baseball field, others wanted it to stay, some wanted gardens, others did not. Another thought was whether or not to redesign the park from scratch or to work within the existing framework. Both ideas were presented and ultimately the final design is new while working within the existing framework. This is mainly for practical reasons, for example the location of existing water and electrical sources, and because it would be more economically feasible.

The overall consensus for the park was that the building needed to have updated facilities, someone on staff, and also the ability to check out items, like soccer balls, movie equipment for park screenings, and other play items for the open space. People also mostly agreed on the full basketball courts. Mostly people just want a safe and active park. The final schematic design presented next has an active program, tons of new lighting and trees, more seating, a bike loop and bike path to the neighborhood, updated play areas that are more challenging, an amphitheater space and an updated BBQ/picnic area.

A final masterplan would need more participation from the community and collaboration with donors and the park board.
KIDS DON'T OFTEN USE THE BASEBALL FIELD, ADULTS FEEL THERE SHOULD BE LEAGUES

MOST PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE FULL COURT BASKETBALL OFFERED

PLAYGROUND IS WELL USED, KIDS WOULD LIKE MORE OF A CHALLENGE

SMALLER COURT AND SHORTER HOOP IS NICE FOR THE YOUNGER PLAYERS

NO ONE USES THE SHUFFLEBOARD GAME

GRILLS ARE TOO OLD, NO ONE PLAYS HORSESHOES, SOME DON'T NOTICE THIS CORNER

EMPTY SPACE, UNDERUTILIZED

BUILDING NEEDS STAFF PERSON AND UPDATED BATHROOMS/FOUNTAINS

PLAYGROUND IS HIDDEN BEHIND BUILDING, PREFER KIDS TO PLAY IN OPEN

SPLASH PAD IS WELL USED IN THE SUMMER

PLANS FOR APARTMENT BUILDING ARE NOT YET KNOWN - MAY BE REDEVELOPED
The amphitheater is a red sculptural element in the park that allows kids and adults to host performances (small and large) and also provide an area for sitting while leaving enough open space for various types of programming. In the summer the open space could be used to screen movies at the park, to play sports, or to use possible play equipment that could be checked out at the park building which is recommended to be staffed. The amphitheater is also a red sculptural piece that provides seating on the mounded area as well. Of course kids can also play on this amphitheater and mound.
A large pedestrian "street" can open up the park and connect it to the rest of the neighborhood while offering a larger "walk-through" space and an opportunity to have a bike loop and additional seating. All playground equipment is updated and more challenging. Specific playground equipment needs to be determined based on more community feedback. Many people suggested they would like to see more opportunities for kids to bike in the park. The "Blue Loop" circles around half of the park and connects to the sidewalk and other bike path.
Many people expressed that they would like to see a more active park as well as have a family friendly park. More seating is offered here for kids and families.
The “Blue Bike Loop” is painted onto existing paths while the path is widened to create a larger pedestrian street. The path can be large enough for walking dogs, playing, and riding your bike.
TWO FULL COURTS + SEATING + KID’S PLAYGROUND

Two full courts are added in this plan. One has a hoop for adults, the other has a hoop size for younger kids. Plenty of seating with shade is given so people can watch a basketball game while also watching their kids at the park. All of the play areas are along one strip and can be seen from the center of the park.
BBQ AREA + BLUE BIKE LOOP

An updated BBQ and picnic area with multiple picnic tables and grills spread throughout the northeast corner of the site. The “Blue Bike Loop” cuts through this space as well, which creates a very active environment.
The “Green Bike Path” connects to the “Park Street” which is large enough to host community events, such as a farmer’s market or group events. Bicycle parking is provided off the “Green Bike Path” which connects to the rest of the city. Kids can ride their bikes to school at Lucy Craft Laney and use this space as well.
GET INVOLVED WITH THE CLEVELAND PARK PROJECT!

Are you interested in being involved with the making this community vision for Cleveland Park a reality? Contact the Cleveland Neighborhood Association and learn how you can help make our community dreams come true.

Call 612-588-1155 or email cna@clevelandneighborhood.org

We’re located on the south side of the Lucy Laney school building at 3333 Penn Ave north. CNA also organizes residents around community development, crime and safety, youth initiatives and community events. Contact us to get involved or learn more at http://clevelandneighborhood.org