Park Board
Agenda Item 7.B
Meeting of May 6, 2026

Title:

Review of the 2027-2031 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Strategic Plan Goal:	To renew and maintain parks and trails
Action Requested:	Provide Feedback
Form of Action:	Report

Summary Statement

Review and discuss the proposed 2027-2031 Capital Improvements Program.

Recommended Action
Review and discuss proposed 2027-2031 CIP and make recommendations regarding any changes, additions or deletions to the proposed projects

Background

Annually, the park board is asked to review and recommend the park and trail related items that are included in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to the city council. The CIP is the city's five-year plan to provide and maintain public facilities for the residents and businesses of Minnetonka, balanced against constraint of available resources.

Projects included are ranked to determine their funding priority. Priority rankings include:

1. Projects necessary for public health and safety, or to meet legal mandates.
2. Projects which help maintain or make existing systems more efficient. Cost benefits and coordination with related projects will be considered.
3. Projects expanding existing systems, providing new services, or for general community betterment.

In addition to the three priority rankings established by the city council, staff has established suggested guidelines on prioritizing the scheduled and unscheduled projects in the following order:

- All park board recommended and city council adopted agreements (city-owned and non-city owned) be funded as agreed upon.
- Rehabilitation of existing trails in order to maintain a preventative and proactive maintenance system.
- Park and Trail Investment Plan projects based upon a 30-year asset inventory are completed to prevent deferred, emergency, or corrective repairs. This category would include city athletic fields.
- Building and structure related projects are completed to protect the investment of each respective facility.
- Park Habitat Stewardship Plan projects are completed based on the 20-year restoration phasing

schedule identified in the Natural Resources Master Plan to increase high quality habitat in the parks.
- Expansion of the trail system by selecting highly rated segments from the Trail Improvement Plan.
- Expansion of the park system by the acquisition or acceptance of land that has park and recreational value, especially to areas that are currently underserved or lacking access to the existing system.
- Expansion of accessible and inclusive spaces and amenities in the park system.
- Planning and system studies that would provide the research and planning materials to benefit the public, staff, park board and city council on matters pertaining to the park, trails, open space and recreational needs of the city.
- Expansion of the trail system by the construction of miscellaneous trail links not identified through the Trail Improvement Plan, but petitioned to the city.
- Non-city owned athletic field improvements and expansion.
- Non-city owned park and trail amenities petitioned to the park board and city council.

It is staff's intent that these priorities remain flexible in order to adapt in the event that specific or prospective projects become available. By establishing guidelines, and not a specific policy, there remains the opportunity to take advantage of available grants, external partnerships, or acquisition that otherwise would be limited by a defined policy.

The 2027-2031 CIP is being proposed for review and comment by the park board at the May 6, 2026 meeting. There are certain project funding levels that the status of is unknown at this time and require further deliberation and discussion, especially with the city council at their upcoming study session. However, it is appropriate that the park board review the draft CIP projects and make a recommendation to the city council in June 2026. By providing feedback and direction, it will benefit staff and the city council on the priorities of the parks and trails projects as they deliberate the five-year policy document.

The city council will review the CIP at their June 15 study session and adopt at a later date in the calendar year. In addition to CIP requests from staff and residents, staff look at a handful of established planning documents that help guide projects that are included in the CIP. Some of those documents are listed below.

- Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Plan: In April of 2022, the park board and city council approved the updated Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) System Plan. The plan is a 15 to 20 year road map for planning and implementing park improvements. The plan offers guiding principles, recommendation, priorities and tools to ensure the Minnetonka park system is relevant and functional into the future. Priority initiatives identified in the POST plan that are included in the 2027-2031 CIP are the design and construction of a new or upgraded skate park, master planning of Lone Lake Park and Civic Center Park, additional trails to be constructed following the Trail Improvement Plan schedule and master plan implementation of Purgatory and Big Willow parks.
- Natural Resource Master Plan: The Natural Resources Master Plan (NRMP) is a high level plan adopted by the city council on Dec. 20, 2021 to guide natural resources management and protection efforts throughout the city. Strategies identified in the NRMP include ecological restoration in parks and other public spaces, ongoing management of invasive species, increasing plant diversity, trees and woodland protection, climate adaptation, education and training, technical assistance and incentives for adoption of best practices. The NRMP specifically identifies a 20-year schedule for habitat restoration in high priority parks and other significant city-owned open space areas (e.g. Cullen Nature Preserve). Park prioritization is based on select criteria as identified in the NRMP, which can be adapted over time.
- Trail Improvement Plan: The Trail Improvement Plan is a multi-year plan created to enhance the city's trail and sidewalk system and consists of unscheduled and unfunded trail segments. This list encompasses approximately 50 miles of new trail or missing link segments. Cost estimates for the construction of those segments exceed $100 million when it is assumed the work does not coincide with a larger roadway project. This category also accounts for the existing trail system

that requires ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation. In 2018, the city council approved the implementation of a gas franchise fee and an increase in the electrical franchise fee, with the use of those revenues dedicated to trail construction. Staff continues to apply for grant funding to assist with trail expansion in Minnetonka.

- Park Investment Plan: The park investment plan looks forward 30 years and projects the lifecycle of existing amenities in the park system. This plan was established as a result of a previous park board goal to develop a funding mechanism for future capital needs. This schedule tracks all infrastructure installed in the park system and projects a future cost and replacement schedule. Those costs are then combined and scheduled during the five-year CIP window. A variety of improvements are scheduled over the next five years to city-owned playgrounds, sport courts, irrigation, etc.

Discussion Points:
Does the Park Board recommend any changes or re-prioritization to the proposed CIP projects?
Does the Park Board recommend the addition of any projects to the proposed CIP (funded or unfunded)?

ATTACHMENT(S):
Park & Trail Related CIP Pages
Addendum