

**Park Board
Agenda Item 7.B
Meeting of June 3, 2026**



Title: Big Willow Park Master Plan Update

Strategic Plan Goal: To renew and maintain parks and trails

Related Strategy: Participate in the park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council

Action Requested: Provide Feedback

Form of Action: Report

Summary Statement

An update on the Big Willow Park Master Plan will be provided for questions and feedback.

Recommended Action

Review and provide feedback

Background

The Minnetonka City Council approved the updated Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) System Plan in 2022 after an extensive public engagement effort with the community, the park board and city council. The POST Plan provides a 15-to-20-year road map for planning and implementing park improvements and helps the park board, city council and staff prioritize park improvements, ensuring that the city's parks, trails and open spaces continue to serve the needs of the entire community.

A key recommendation from the Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) System Plan includes creating comprehensive master plans for all major community parks, including Big Willow Park. Following the 2025-2029 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), staff has contracted with Bolton & Menk and their team of park planners, landscape architects, outreach specialists, and engineers to engage with residents and other key stakeholders and use those findings to create a comprehensive master plan outlining future park improvements to pursue.

At the May 6, 2026 Park Board meeting, staff presented the first full draft of the Big Willow Park Master Plan, including general goals, park assessment and condition analysis, opportunities and challenges, and an improvement prioritization strategy. Key feedback received included the relocation of a proposed off-leash dog area and pedestrian bridge from the neighboring Mills Landing Park, which is being included in the planning of Big Willow Park.

Following the discussion with the board, staff is proposing updates to parts of the master plan according to the feedback received and will present a new concept ideas for the southwest portion of the park for discussion. In general, potential re-design includes an off-leash dog area located further east along Minnetonka Boulevard near the previously proposed picnic shelter location, which would remain. Staff would like to receive feedback before finalizing any draft maps.

Staff will continue to collect and respond to feedback received from the community in response to this next conceptual draft which will be made available on the city's public engagement platform, [Minnetonka Matters](#). Once a draft is complete, the final master plan will be presented to the Park Board in the coming months before being recommended to the city council for adoption later this year. At this time, a revised plan will be presented to the Park Board for feedback.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Addendum](#)