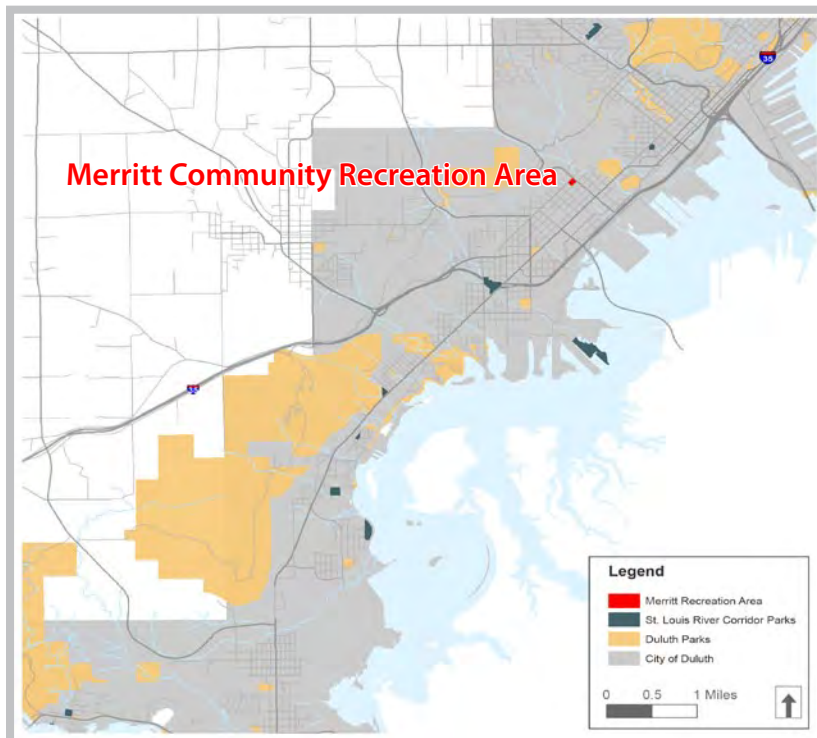




MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA

Summary and Overview

Merritt Community Recreation Area is a three acre, one-block park in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood. It is bounded on all sides by local, residential streets: W 8th St., N 40th Ave. W, W 7th St., and N 41st Ave W. The park is generally a recreational park with a softball field, ice rink, basketball court, park building, and playground. The park sits on a sloped field, which creates some drainage issues around the building, softball field, and play area. The softball field and ice rink are used for an adult softball league and broomball league, respectively. The building is underutilized and planned for removal by the City. Several apple trees were recently planted in the north corner of the park.



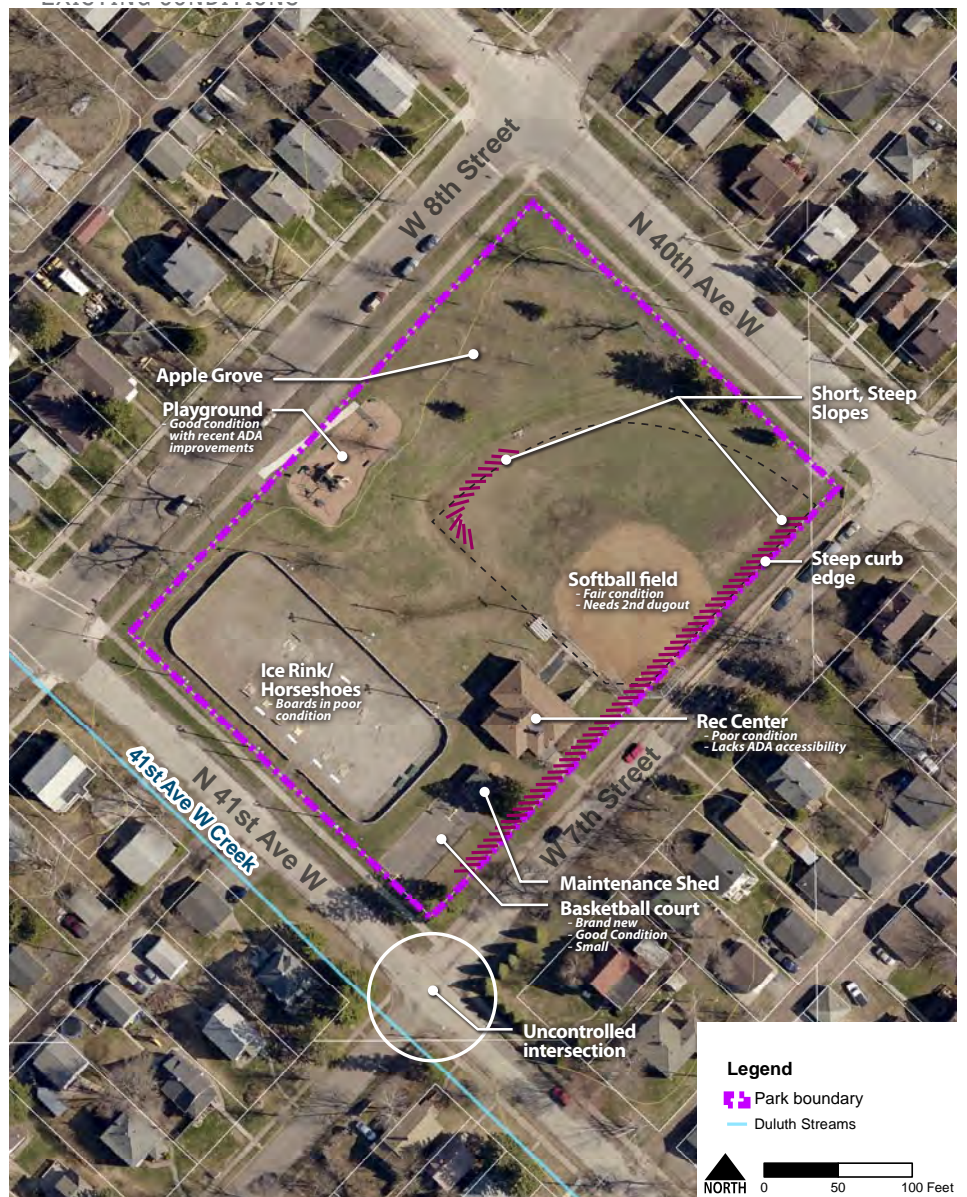
MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA LOCATION MAP

STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Brand new basketball court is in good condition, opportunity to add fencing along south corner of park to prevent balls from going into the street where there is an uncontrolled intersection
- » The park is in a good location for the neighborhood with good access on all sides to residents, opportunity to improve street crossings and sidewalks
- » The softball field and hockey rink are well used features for summer and winter recreation, but both could use minor improvements
- » Opportunity to improve stormwater management with rain gardens or native vegetation areas

ISSUES:

- » Park building is in poor condition, lacks ADA accessibility, and is rarely open to the public/park users
- » The ice rink lights are controlled on a timer in the building and not reliable to be on when needed
- » Hockey boards are in poor condition – no money to replace
- » Stormwater drainage issues exist throughout the park—on the playground and softball field there are several areas that pond
- » A warming house is needed for skating



MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA SITE INVENTORY

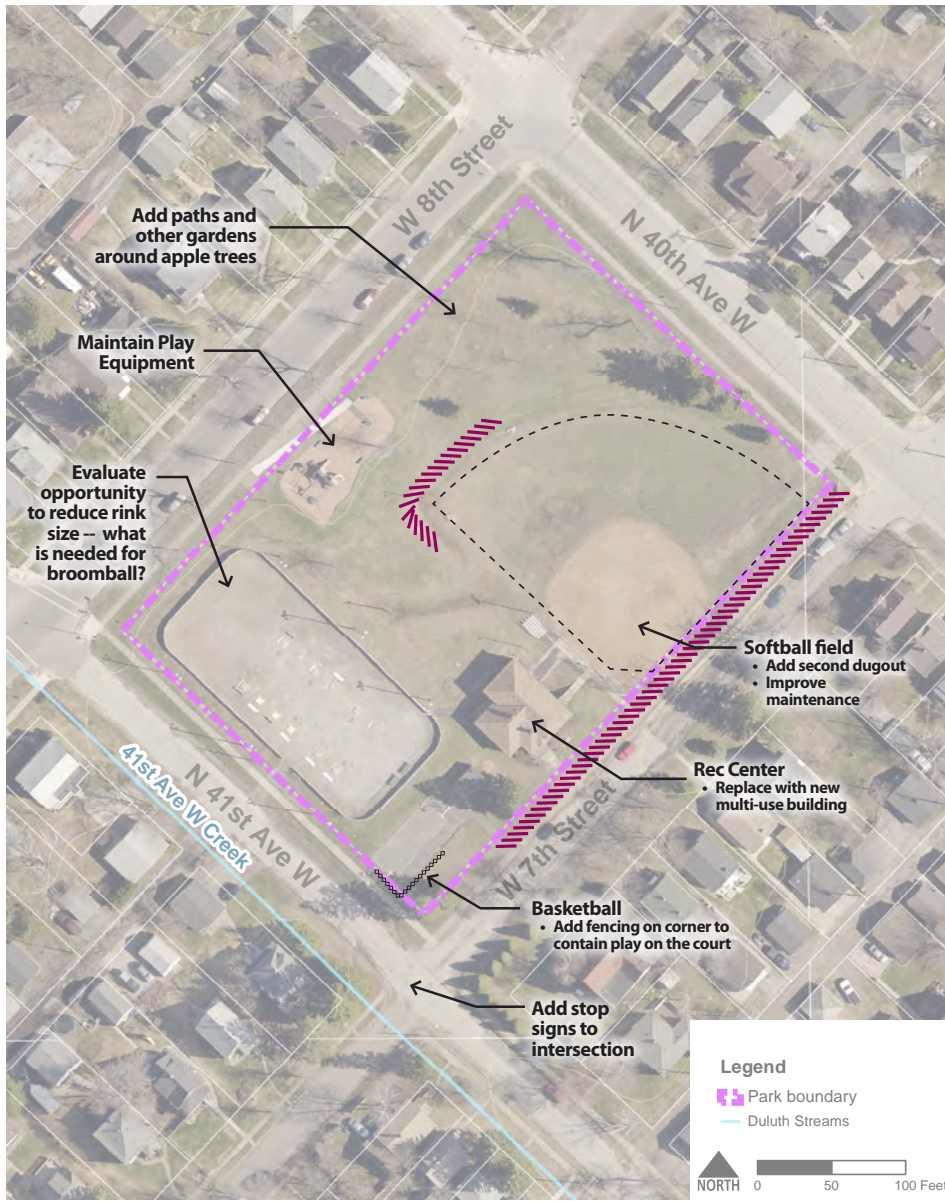
Existing Conditions

The facilities in Merritt are generally in fair to good condition. A few recent updates have been made to the playground area and basketball court. Some features are on their last legs for usability and will need to be updated soon.

The basketball court is smaller than a typical regulation field, relatively new, and in good condition. The softball field is well used with an infield that could use some resurfacing. The softball field has one chain link dugout, bleachers, and lights. The hockey boards stay up all year and are in poor condition. Horseshoe pits are located in the hockey rink area, but they are scheduled for relocation to Wheeler Park. The playground has had recent ADA accessibility improvements, but the benches and some of the equipment are in poor condition.

The park building is in poor condition. It has not been updated in years, is not ADA accessible, and is not able to be easily updated.

Overall grading and drainage issues exist, especially on and around the softball



MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION ARE PARK SITE ANALYSIS

field. The area in the center of the park, between the hockey rink, building, and softball field, is not well graded and is unusable space.

Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. The benches at Merritt are in poor condition, and picnic tables and grills would be welcomed amenities. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. A central kiosk sign with ability to post neighborhood information is also desired.

The public input process revealed the desire for a new community building or pavilion that would be open to park users during regular hours every day.



The existing play equipment includes accessible elements



The community orchard is well cared for



Boards at the existing broomball rink are in fair condition



The ballfield lacks a second dugout



FIGURE 2.25 MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

Some form of community gathering space and identity feature is desired to bring the community together and encourage engagement in the park.

Overall, updates to the existing park features are necessary to continue the functionality of the park. The softball field needs resurfacing, drainage pipe in the outfield, and a second dugout. The hockey rink needs new boards and better managed lighting for dark winter nights. The hockey rink is voluntarily maintained by Northwoods Children’s Services. A shade structure with benches and picnic tables is desired near the existing playground. The playground container and equipment needs to be updated to remove safety hazards.

Infrastructure and safety improvements on the adjacent sidewalks to the park should be completed with future street reconstruction as part of public works improvements. Crosswalks on adjacent streets and stop signs should be improved and added at surrounding intersections.

Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Merritt Community Recreation Area includes overall drainage improvements, minor recreational improvements, and park gathering spaces, including a pavilion and building replacement, and accessibility, and canoe/kayak launch improvements.

Phasing & Cost Estimates

PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

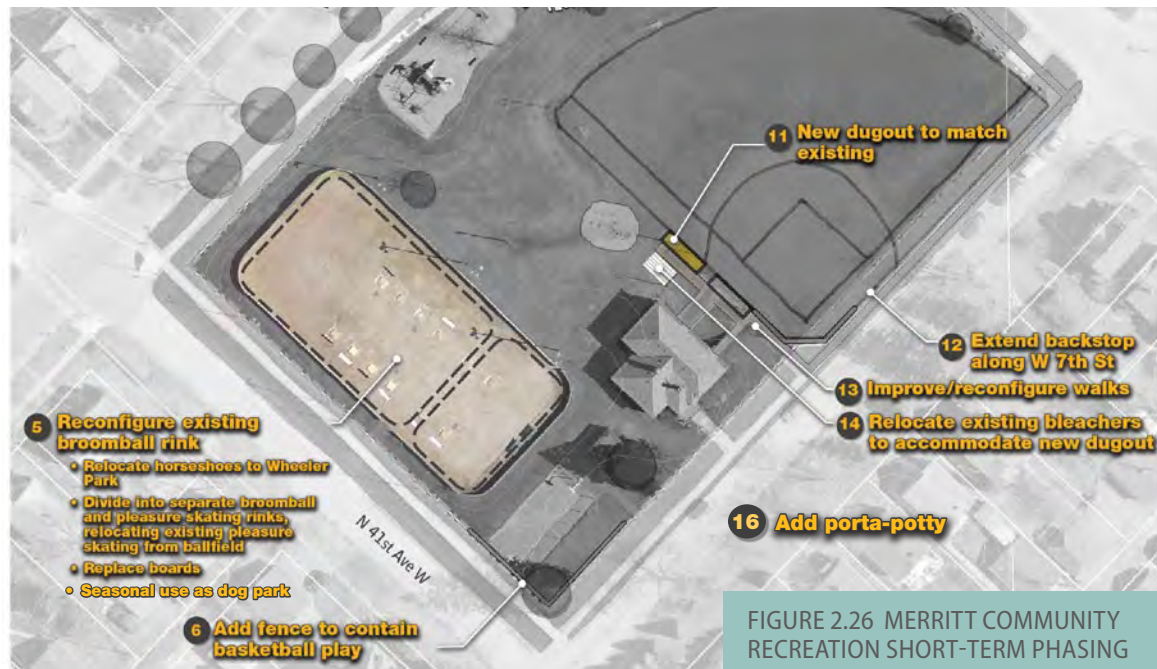


FIGURE 2.26 MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION SHORT-TERM PHASING

ACTION			COST
#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	
5	Demolition	Remove/Relocate Existing Horseshoes	With Wheeler costs
5	Recreation	Partition Existing Rink with Boards	\$5,000
5	Recreation	Replace Existing Hockey Boards	\$25,000
6	Infrastructure	Install New Chain Link Fence	\$10,800
11	Recreation	Build New Chain Link Fence Dugout	\$3,500
12	Recreation	Extend Existing Backstop	\$6,000
13	Circulation	Improve / Reconfigure walkways	\$10,360
16	Furnishings	Add porta-potty	\$2,500
Total Short-Term Improvement Costs			\$63,160

PHASE 2: LONG-TERM



FIGURE 2.27 MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION LONG-TERM PHASING

ACTION			COST
#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	
1	Furnishings	Add Picnic Tables (2)	\$4,000
2	Buildings	Build New Picnic Shelter	\$30,000
3	Furnishings	Improve Seating - New Benches (3)	\$3,600
4	Circulation	New Sensor-Activated/Automatic Pedestrian Crossing	\$10,000
7	Circulation	New Four-Way Stop - Signs	\$4,000
8	Circulation	Add Children At Play Signs	\$5,000
9	Demolition	Relocate Existing Apple Trees (3)	\$750
10	Recreation	Improve Field Drainage & Condition	\$50,000
10	Stormwater	Install New Raingarden	\$25,500
15	Demolition	Remove Existing Building	TBD
15	Buildings	Build New Community Building	\$500,000
Total Long-Term Improvement Costs			\$632,850
Total Short-Term Improvement Costs			\$63,160
Total Improvement Costs			\$696,010