



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 11, 2015

Capital Improvements Budget Committee
C/o Daley Lehmann
15 W. Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Members of the CIB Committee,

I strongly support the Highland District Council's CIB applications for an improved play area and improved fields at the recently renovated Highland Community Center. The fields and play area at the Highland Community Center are some of the most highly used recreation facilities in the City. From early spring to late fall sports teams, families and neighbors can be seen enjoying the fields and play area.

However, the fields at the Highland Community Center are studded with rocks. When it's dry the dust and dirt is so bad it's hard to see the players from the sideline. When it's wet the only true sport available is mud wrestling. The play area at Highland Community Center is packed daily with families and neighbors and many children don't have space to play. The Highland District Council has done thorough research and outreach to identify the most sustainable redevelopment of the fields and the best expansion of the play area to suit families and children of the 21st century.

Please join me in supporting Highland District Council's CIB applications for an improved play area and improved fields at the Highland Community Center.

Sincerely,

Chris Tolbert
Saint Paul City Councilmember, Ward 3

HPCC Play Area and Fields

Things we would like
to change and why.....

1. Better Equipment - We are getting really bored with the ones we have
2. Better Fields - The Grass is really bad and muddy and rocky.
3. The Pavement - There are holes in it and its bumpy
4. The Fences - Coming apart from the frame Dangerous
5. Benches - You could get slivers from them and they need to be painted over
6. Baseball Field - Need to have bases.

From,

Nora Age 9

Address: 1927 Saunders Ave.

February 28, 2015

Dr. Wendy Thompson Taiwo
Department of Ethnic and Religious Studies
Metropolitan State University
700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

Ms. Jody Martinez, Manager
Design and Construction
St. Paul Parks and Recreation
25 W. 4th Street, 400 CHA
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Martinez,

I am submitting this letter in strong support for the 2016/2017 Capital Improvement Budget proposals to upgrade the Highland Park Community Center Play Area and the Highland Park Community Center fields.

As a parent, educator, and neighborhood resident, I feel it is important to continue to offer clean, safe, and updated facilities to neighborhood children who can enjoy a quality outdoor experience while enhancing neighborhood and community pride.

Speaking specifically about the Highland Park Community Center Play Area, the fact that the playground equipment is outdated and there is noticeable vandalism and significant wear and tear on some of the playground structures have forced me to make the decision to take my four-year-old to nearby Minneapolis in order to utilize the newer, better cared for playground facilities at Minnehaha Park where a great deal more parents and children can be found throughout the year. With a park (Highland) that is walkable to our house, this should not be the case.

Vandalism and decrepit structures suggest that a community does not care about its public facilities, a perception that might also translate to the lack of care the community has for itself. These factors create a negative experience for parents and children who then have to put in time and energy to travel elsewhere to play and socialize or find alternative activities. Speaking to this, I have noticed that aside from local school groups and a few parents and children, there is very little public use of the playground which is especially puzzling due to the increased traffic at the newly remodeled Highland Park Library.

Please upgrade our neighborhood facilities! Highland Park residents—which includes plenty of parents and children—deserve to have an outdoor space that is clean, beautiful, and reflects the pride we have for our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wendy Thompson Taiwo
Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies
Metropolitan State University

From: Dave Elmstrom
Subject: Highland Park (Hillcrest) fields

Message Body:

I'd like to send a note in support of the upgrades of the fields and playground at the Highland Park Community Center (formerly Hillcrest). My kids are 6 and 8 years old, and have been playing sports at those fields for a few years now. As anyone can attest, those fields are in terrible shape -- they are basically hard-pack dirt and rocks, with a few weeds growing. The ground is so hard, and there are so many rocks, it really gets to be a safety issue for the kids. I'd like to see the upgrades to the fields be a priority for the city. Having a fun, safe area for our kids to play is important to maintain the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Thanks for considering my input, and please contact me if you'd like more information.

Dave Elmstrom
2011 Pinehurst Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55116

From: Sally Bauer
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 10:31 AM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul); hdc@visi.com
Subject: Support for Highland Play Area and Fields

Hello Mr Lehmann and the Highland District Council,

I am writing today as a resident of Highland Park (2087 Hartford Ave) in support of the CIB requests for the Highland Play Area and Fields. I am the parent of a nearly 3 year old with a baby on the way. The neighborhood parks are an invaluable resource to our family and one of the reasons we chose to live in St Paul.

The current play area at Highland is clearly out of date and even appears to be unsafe due to the age and condition of the equipment. As a parent of a toddler, it is especially important to maintain these play areas that have toddler specific areas since the school play grounds do not accommodate toddlers as easily. We walk farther or drive to play grounds that are toddler friendly. It seems odd that I am now walking over a mile to take advantage of the fabulous new park and splash pad at Wabaun in Minneapolis instead of being able to stay right in St Paul where I pay my taxes for services such as playgrounds and parks.

The field at Highland is also in terrible shape, it appears to be more dirt than grass each year and we have our youngest children playing sports where they can easily hurt themselves. I look forward to my children being the age that they can sign up for sports and hope the fields are renovated before we do so.

Thanks for your consideration,

Sally Bauer

From: Mike McDonald
Subject: Playground and Field updating

Message Body:

The playground at the Highland Community Center is in need of updating mainly because of safety concerns. The field is in terrible condition. Each year the students at Highland Catholic spend a day picking rocks that come to surface. A new field is a must in the near future.
Thanks.

Mike McDonald
2002 Pinehurst

From: Kate Meixell
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Martinez, Jody (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Highland Rec Center Playground

Ms. Martinez,

I am writing to urge you to provide funding to improve the playground and playing fields at the Highland Rec. Center. We live within a half mile of this playground, and with two young children, head there regularly for outdoor play. It is obvious that this playground is outdated. Many of the pieces of equipment are broken, or regularly in need of repair, including the digging cranes and the handicap-accessible swing. There is graffiti on the ship play structure for the youngest children as well. And although sand is fun for the children to play in, it is not the best material for those with physical disabilities. Replacing the existing, outdated, and run-down playground with one that is more accessible for a wide variety of children and their caregivers is a good investment in our community.

Thank you,
Kate Giambelluca
2094 Scheffer Ave. St Paul, MN 55116
651.528.6838

From: Deb Blair
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 12:44 PM
To: Martinez, Jody (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Highland Fields

Dear Ms Martinez,

I am writing to express my strong support of fixing the Highland Park (formerly Hillcrest) fields and hope that this project is properly funded in the current CIB cycle. This recreation/park area is well used despite is appalling condition. The safety of the fields is questionable. Children should not be allowed to play on soccer and baseball fields that are rocky and without grass for their protection. Tripping on rocks or falling on them is not what we want for our St. Paul kids. Please rank this project in the high position it deserves.

Thank you.

Deb Blair
2227 Highland Pkwy
St Paul

From: Michaela Ahern
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 3:27 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Highland Community Center playground

Hello,

I would like to express my support for improved playground facilities at the Highland Community Center. We are frequent users of the library, gym, and playground. It's a great community meeting spot and is used by many people of all ages. The equipment is dated and in some instances unsafe. This summer a piece of a plastic slide broke off and there was a jagged edge for weeks. In the summer there's no shade, which is very uncomfortable for little babies and children (not the mention their parents!). The play area is a great resource and could be even better and more inclusive to children with developmental delays and/or handicaps with some improvements. Thanks!

Michaela Ahern
864 St. Paul Ave, St. Paul, MN

From: Mary Lynch
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2015 2:22 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Highland Park CC play area

Dear Mr. Lehmann,

I live at 1381 Kenneth Street. I support funding the play area at Highland Park Community center. I raised 4 children here and was very involved with the improvements to the Homecroft play area about 10 years ago. The play areas are incredibly important to knitting a community together. I met many lasting friends at both Homecroft and Highland Park play areas while we cared for and played with our children.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynch

651-308-1467

Sent from my iPhone

Ms. Jody Martinez, Manager
Design and Construction
St. Paul Parks and Recreation
25 W. 4th Street, 400 CHA
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Martinez:

My name is Keeley Hanson. My coworker, Barb Biagi and I run a preschool program at Highland Park Community Center as well as a school age program during the summer. We are happy to submit this letter of support for the 2016/2017 CIB proposal to upgrade the facilities at Highland Park Community Center.

We think the families as well as people in the neighborhood would greatly benefit from Highland Park's playground being upgraded. Through the years, we have watched bits and pieces of the playground fall victim to vandalism, weather related issues and kid related wear and tear. It is used so often and by many, it has taken quite a beating. With the wonderful addition of the new library, wouldn't it be nice to show off a new playground as well and show everyone what a fantastic place Highland Park Community Center is.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Keeley Hanson and Barb Biagi

From: Anne Valaas-Turner
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2015 9:53 PM
To: hdc@visi.com; Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Highland Rec Center playground proposal

I am writing in support of playground upgrades at the Highland (formerly Hillcrest) Recreation Center. I live on Saunders Avenue and have two children ages 1.5 and 3. The playground is our closest playground and we love being able to walk there. My daughter also attends the Recreation for Preschoolers program at the rec center and plays on the playground as part of her school day. Unfortunately, the current playground equipment is not well-suited for toddlers. We would love to see more modern playground equipment installed that serves a wider range of ages, such as that at the Groveland Rec Center or Mattocks Park.

With gratitude for your consideration of our neighborhood's children,
Anne Valaas-Turner

From: Eric Perry

Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 10:56 AM

To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)

Subject: CIB Committee: support of the Highland Community Center and Fields project funding

Dear CIB Committee,

My name is Eric Perry and I live at 2098 Upper Saint Dennis Road. I am a relatively new resident of St. Paul and father of three young children ages 8, 6, and 3. We have enjoyed our time in St. Paul, but quite frankly have been underwhelmed with the quality of the Highland community play area. This should be a commons area in the heart of a bustling, diverse community that pulls young families together, but unfortunately it comes up short. As such, I am writing to support the funding of the Highland Park Community Center Play Area and the Highland Park Community Center Fields.

Sincerely,
Eric Perry

Eric Perry | eperry@varde.com | Värde Partners, Inc.
8500 Normandale Lake Blvd. | Suite 1500 | Minneapolis, MN 55437
Direct: +1.952.715.5518 | Cell: +1. 952.465.7994 | Fax: +1.952.893.9613

From: Daniel Matschina
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 10:58 AM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee - Email of Support - Highland Park Community Center & Fields

Capital Improvement Budget Task Force
C/O John McCarthy
Office of Financial Services
St. Paul, MN 55102

Mr. Lehmann, Mr. McCarthy and the CIB Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for the 2014/2015 CIB proposal to upgrade the facilities at Highland Park Community Center Play Area and Highland Park Community Center Fields.

I have lived in Saint Paul my entire adult life, am raising 3 children and frequently use these fields and equipment. It's very important that we improve these fields given the amount of use they get in relation to their condition – which is basically at a point where they cannot be safely used anymore. My children come home with injuries, torn clothing and dirty faces every day they use these field. This work is no longer a 'want' from the community – it has become a real 'need'.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Daniel and Rebecca Matschina
2109 Upper Saint Dennis Road

M: 651-238-8300

From: Joe Peterson
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 11:21 AM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB - Highland Park

CIB Committee Member,

I'm writing today to express my sincere request that you support the improvement budget for the Highland Park Community Center Play Area and Fields.

As I'm sure you know, the playgrounds and fields are perhaps the worst in our lovely city. The playground equipment is dated and unsafe, and the field's surface is encumbered by rocks, weeds and a severe lack of what would traditionally be considered adequate turf.

Please do what you can to ensure this is a priority.

Graciously submitted by:

Joe Peterson

Father of 2

Highland Park Resident (and frequent visitor to the playground and fields)

1899 Highland Parkway

Thanks,
Joe

From: Kent Collins
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 11:35 AM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Hillcrest Park

Mr. Daley Lehman,
I am resident of Highland Park (1068 Prior Ave South). My wife and two sons often go to the Hillcrest Park to play on the fields and in the playground. The condition of the grass on the fields has been terrible. It is like running on concrete. The playground needs a major overhaul. Our sons also plan on attending Highland Catholic who use the fields for their play time. I understand funding is available and one of the proposals is redoing the field and playground at Hillcrest. I urge you to please vote for this project as this park could definitely use an overhaul to match the beautiful new renovation to the library.

Thank you,

Kent J. Collins, Au.D., FAAA

Doctor of Audiology
Director of Tele-Hearing
Cell: 651-245-3745



200 East Travelers Trail
Suite 125
Burnsville, MN 55337

From: Pat Archbold
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 11:46 AM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee

I am writing to show my support for the Highland Play Area and Fields improvement investment being considered.

The fields are in dire need of help and with the general lack of good, available fields for the kids in the area this would go a long way towards improving the neighborhood. One visit to the suburbs and their lower property taxes, great public schools and incredible play areas makes it easy to see why young families leave.

Small thing like solid neighborhood parks go a long way in fighting the defection.

We would appreciate your consideration in helping improve the fields for the kids.

Pat Archbold
2241 Riverwood Place
St. Paul MN
651 271 6487

From: Peter Probst
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee

Mr. Lehmann

My name is Peter Probst, and I live at 1927 Saunders Ave in Saint Paul. I would like to express my support for the Highland Park Community Center Play Area and Field projects that will be presented tonight.

My children (ages 4, 8 & 9) use the play grounds and fields on a regular basis. We frequently visit other parks in connection with my children's activities, and feel the current facilities lag behind their peers. Living in the community, I can attest to the frequent use of the fields and play areas. The proposed upgrades will be widely used and appreciated once completed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Probst

From: steve downes
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB committee

I am Steve Downes. I live at 981 St Paul Avenue with my 3 kids ages 7 10 and 11. I would like to verbalize my desire to have the CIB committee fund the projects of Highland park Community fields and play area.

My children choose to want to go to parks and fields that are 10 to 15 min away in different cities instead of the one up the street due to its condition.

This is sad and ridiculous that even kids know that it is in bad shape.

From: Adam Mike
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee

Good Afternoon,

A quick note of support for improving the fields at Hillcrest. I have 3 children that have used and are using the fields for Hillcrest and Highland Catholic athletic events over the past 15 years. I have also coached several teams. Over these years I have witnessed and been a part of sprained ankles, broken ankles, and numbers unnecessary cuts and scrapes due to the poor conditions of the fields and poor lighting.

Please consider making improvements to Hillcrest fields for the safety of the children, coaches and fans/parents.

Thanks,

Mike Adam
2203 Bayard Ave.
St. Paul, MN. 55116

From: Mike Tierney
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 1:00 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Hillcrest Fields

Just a quick note of support for consideration regarding the potential improvement of the Hillcrest Rec Center fields. These are literally the worst fields in the city that I've seen. I've coached soccer for many years through Hillcrest and we just cannot use them...at all...for soccer practice. They are literally no grass and holes everywhere. This is a huge open space and the fields and baseball fields are very rarely used. Please consider channeling funding to the improvement of these fields in the middle of our thriving neighborhood.

Thanks
Mike Tierney
697 Sumner St.
Saint Paul

Mike Tierney
Sales Manager
Medtronic Spine/Team Spine
(612)860-1069

From: Andrew Tessier
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 1:23 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul); Meredith Tessier
Subject: Improvements to the Highland Park Community Center Play Area and Fields

Mr. Lehmann,

Please accept this email as explicit support from the Tessier family (Meredith, Andrew, Sam & Gabe) for the proposed Capital Improvement Budget for the following projects in Saint Paul, Highland Park Community Center Play Area and Highland Park Community Center Fields.

Our family has owned a home in Highland Park (@ 1004 Saint Paul Avenue) and paid taxes since 1999. Our two children attend Highland Catholic School and use the facilities 2 times a day. As a family we use the facility frequently.

The Play Area and Fields are clearly in need for improvement. The Play Area's equipment is in disrepair and the Fields are unusable for all intents. It is also disappointing that the Fields do not have a hockey rink or skating area even though the Community Center was designed to have a warming house for our young hockey players.

We want to see these improvements made while our children are still at Highland Catholic. It is important to us and will help us justify what we believe to be a high tax base for our neighborhood. Please support these improvements for all of the families in the Highland Park neighborhood.

Respectfully,
Andrew, Meredith, Sam and Gabe Tessier



Highland Groveland Recreation Association

2136 Ford Parkway #233
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-1863
651-699-9898

February 24, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget Task Force
c/o John McCarthy
Office of Financial Services
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

On behalf of the Highland Groveland Recreation Association (HGRA), I wish to express our support for the 2014/2015 CIB proposal to upgrade the play area at the Highland Park Community Center (Hillcrest Recreation Center).

HGRA has been serving the youth of the Highland-Groveland area since 1957. As a result, we are well aware of the limited quality play areas for our young residents. Those that do exist are often in poor condition and/or do not meet current requirements for accessibility.

The play area at the HPCC is one of these. Considering its age and condition, it is certainly deserving of renovation and improvement.

HGRA was founded in 1957 to provide recreational programs for area youth at a time when other opportunities did not exist. Since then we have grown to serving almost 2,200 participants in summer sports which attests to the demand for such services in this area. We believe that there is commensurate demand for quality play areas at our recreation centers which contribute greatly to our neighborhood vitality and quality of life, all of which serve to attract and retain families with young children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Driver, President

cc: Kathy Carruth, Highland District Council
Alice Messer, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation



Highland Groveland Recreation Association

2136 Ford Parkway #233
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-1863
651-699-9898

February 24, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget Task Force
c/o John McCarthy
Office of Financial Services
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

On behalf of the Highland Groveland Recreation Association (HGRA), I wish to lend our support for the 2014/2015 CIB proposal to develop an artificial turf athletic field at the Highland Park Community Center (HPCC).

Quite simply, the athletic field as it now exists is unacceptable for youth sports activities. It is especially unsafe for sports such as soccer that involve sliding on the field.

When I was a volunteer coach for recreation center soccer teams, I would line the players up before the game and we would walk the field collecting rocks that were on the surface. No matter how often we did this, there were always new rocks on field for the next game. Other groups also followed this practice and, as a result, together we accumulated quite a sizable pile of rocks during the season. Imagine trying to play a game on such a field.

The HPCC athletic field is used for many more recreational activities in addition to soccer. Each of these has to deal with the challenges presented by such a substandard field. Because it is considered a multi-purpose field, it is subjected to use throughout the year and gets no rest or time to recover from the extensive overuse.

The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department has recognized the difficulty of maintaining natural grass fields which are over-used in this manner. As a result, it has installed artificial turf fields at fields that were previously grass fields – McMurray Fields at Como Park, Jimmy Lee Fields – and it is considering installing artificial turf at the proposed multi-purpose field at Victoria Park.

HGRA provides recreational sports programs serving almost 2,200 youth in the Highland-Groveland area. Our numbers alone attest to the demand for open space that allows for safe and enjoyable athletic activities. Unfortunately, the Highland-Groveland area also has very limited open space for these activities which makes safe, playable fields at HPCC a

necessity and will contribute to attracting families with children to the City of Saint Paul, thereby contributing to the vitality and growth of our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Driver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Bill Driver, President

cc: Kathy Carruth, Highland District Council
Alice Messer, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

To: Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

Highland District Council

From: Highland Catholic Men's Club

Date: October 20, 2014

Re: Statement of Support and Commitment for Hillcrest Park

Thank you for the consideration you have given to improving Hillcrest Park, as well for the conversations you have had to date with members of the community. The Highland Catholic School Mens' club is an organization of over 100 Highland Catholic School fathers and male guardians encompassing current and alumni families, Highland Business owners and parishioners of Lumen Christi Catholic Community. The club recognizes that public works projects are most impactful when private citizens are engaged and invested in such project's success. For this reason, we have written this statement of support and commitment for Hillcrest Park.

Hillcrest Park is located in one of the most vibrant neighborhoods of Saint Paul and in an area that has seen significant public and private investment of late. The popularity of the fields, proximity to a busy commercial center, school and renovated library, combined with the annual Highland fest and the presence of a very popular sledding hill, put significant strain on the equipment and fields. The current turf conditions and equipment are worn down and require improvements that align with the increasingly high utilization of the park. Therefore, as you debate and consider plans for the park, we would like to voice our support that the following elements be included in your final design:

- Safe but challenging playground equipment, including facilities that appeal to older children, as well as small child areas
- Fitness based activities, such as climbing walls, exercise stations and four square that encourage activity in both young and old park users
- Sustainable multi-purpose fields, including baseball, soccer, football– while grass is preferred, our hope is that any surface receives the proper maintenance (e.g., irrigation, removal of rocks, etc.); Artificial turf is preferred to a non-maintained natural surface
- Hockey rink and/or other winter activities that encourage Highland Park residents to be active year round
- Lighting that promotes safety and security, as well as increased nighttime utilization by recreation leagues, both children and adult

We recognize that each of your organizations operate on a budget and that there are many similar projects that warrant investment. Therefore, we are committed to partnering with you to build and maintain an improved Hillcrest Park through the following representative activities:

- Assemble playground equipment
- Monitor and maintain hockey rink (we understand that the community plays an active role at other successful rinks)
- Perform annual clean-ups or other basic maintenance

- Other volunteerism based tasks as needed

Furthermore, we appreciate and welcome a conversation about what financial commitments, if any, might be required to achieve the collective vision to be defined between our community, the Highland District Council and the Saint Paul Parks and Recreations department.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Members of the Highland Catholic Men's Club

Signed:

Ion Skillrud, 1921 Saunders Ave, Saint Paul
Aaron Massari, 1416 Hewitt Ave, Saint Paul
Andy Staples, 635 Ivy Falls Ave, Mendota
Greg Haider, 1400 Kenneth Street, Saint Paul
Kevin C. Roberge, 146 Rome Ave, Saint Paul
Mike Tierney, 697 Summer St, Saint Paul
Greg Olson, 2200 Bayard Ave, Saint Paul
Peter Probst, 1927 Saunders Ave, Saint Paul
Nick Wills, 1869 Victoria St. Mendota Heights
Kurt Keegstra, 4589 Blaine Ave, Inver Grove
Sean Dunn, 1878 Montreal Ave, Saint Paul
Andy Staples, 635 Ivy Falls Ave, Mendota
JB Little, 2076 Eleanor Ave, Saint Paul
John Rozek, 1854 Grand Ave, Saint Paul
Steve Haider, 1710 Bohland Ave, Saint Paul
Chris Stomberg, 1676 Scheffer Ave, Saint Paul

Kevin C. Roberge, 146 Rome Avenue, Saint Paul
Tony Giuliani, 2154 Pinehurst Ave, Saint Paul
Michael Adam, 2203 Bayard Ave, Saint Paul
Jeff Kennefick, 1870 Bayard Ave, Saint Paul
Brandon Bailie, 1902 Pinehurst Ave, Saint Paul
Joel Bengtson, 1990 Fairmount Ave, Saint Paul
Joe Peterson, 1899 Highland Parkway, Saint Paul
Tim Bachman, 1712 Yorkshire Ave, Saint Paul
Mike Heitzman, 495 Montrose Lane, Saint Paul
Chris Cheney, 1846 Montreal Ave, Saint Paul
Daniel Matschina, 2109 Upper Saint Dennis Rd, Saint Paul
Eric Perry, 2098 Upper Saint Dennis Rd, Saint Paul
Pat and Katie Archbold, 2241 Riverwood Pl, Saint Paul
William Barth, 890 Kenneth St, Saint Paul
Steve Downes, 981 Saint Paul Ave, Saint Paul
Dan Staples, 363 Hamline Ave So, St. Paul, MN 55105



February 28, 2015

Dear St. Paul City Leadership and St. Paul Parks and Recreation,

Highland Catholic School is delighted to support the effort to improve the fields and play equipment at Hillcrest Recreation Center.

Highland Catholic School is proud of its long-time relationship with Hillcrest Recreation Center. We have been the home to many park programs over the years and continue to host the Hillcrest Karate Program under the leadership of Jack Kelly. The middle school students have been actively involved in community service projects including the neighborhood carnival. Physical education classes in the spring frequently gather rocks that have appeared on the fields after the frost heave. The students of Highland Catholic School have enjoyed outside recess at the park for over 50 years!

Highland Park is a vibrant family-centered neighborhood. People take pride in the area, which adds to its attractiveness and sense of community. New playground equipment is needed. The current equipment is worn and pieces are missing. What a great project to bring young families together.

The fields are tired and worn. I believe they may be the shabbiest fields in your park system, yet they have tremendous use by the community. It would be great to see them redesigned in a way that would support the usage and allow them to be maintained without the annual spring rock harvest.

Last year, the Highland Turkey Trot organizers from Highland Catholic School donated \$1500 designated to support the outside play area at the park. This project would be exactly what those donors had in mind. Also, I am happy to offer the muscle and strong backs of our newly formed Men's Club to join in the assembly work.

Please let me know of additional ways we can support this project. **Investing in our youngsters is money well spent now and for the future.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane E. Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jane Schmidt
Principal

From: [Martinez, Jody \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
To: [Messer, Alice \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Improving Highland Park Community Center Playgrounds
Date: Monday, February 23, 2015 7:33:16 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Muria Kruger <muriak@yahoo.com>
Date: February 22, 2015 at 9:15:23 PM CST
To: "jody.martinez@ci.stpaul.mn.us" <jody.martinez@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: **Improving Highland Park Community Center Playgrounds**
Reply-To: Muria Kruger <muriak@yahoo.com>

Dear Ms. Jody Martinez,

I'm writing as I understand the Highland Community Council is proposing to update the Highland Park Community Center Playgrounds and fields.

I am a mother with three young kids (ages 1, 4, and 6). We live in Mac/Groveland, but we frequent the Highland Park Community Center, playgrounds and fields often. We come there for the library and rec. center programs (open gyms, soccer, and theater).

When the weather permits, we almost always stop and play in the park on our way to and from these activities.

The mud in the fields when it rains, however, is a deterrent. As is some of the playground equipment that can be dangerous -- in particular the belt bridge.

I strongly support updating the playground and fields. It's time. They have all been used a lot and it shows. A new playground would also help to keep people coming to and using the facilities. It already is a gathering place for children and families, I think updated equipment would only help to make it grow more so!

Thank you for your time and work on projects such as these. They keep our neighborhood a great place to live.

Muria Kruger
1687 Lincoln Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
651-226-0471

From: [Martinez, Jody \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
To: [Messer, Alice \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Improving Highland Park Community Center Playgrounds
Date: Monday, February 23, 2015 7:33:16 AM

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From: Muria Kruger <muriak@yahoo.com>
Date: February 22, 2015 at 9:15:23 PM CST
To: "jody.martinez@ci.stpaul.mn.us" <jody.martinez@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: **Improving Highland Park Community Center Playgrounds**
Reply-To: Muria Kruger <muriak@yahoo.com>

Dear Ms. Jody Martinez,

I'm writing as I understand the Highland Community Council is proposing to update the Highland Park Community Center Playgrounds and fields.

I am a mother with three young kids (ages 1, 4, and 6). We live in Mac/Groveland, but we frequent the Highland Park Community Center, playgrounds and fields often. We come there for the library and rec. center programs (open gyms, soccer, and theater).

When the weather permits, we almost always stop and play in the park on our way to and from these activities.

The mud in the fields when it rains, however, is a deterrent. As is some of the playground equipment that can be dangerous -- in particular the belt bridge.

I strongly support updating the playground and fields. It's time. They have all been used a lot and it shows. A new playground would also help to keep people coming to and using the facilities. It already is a gathering place for children and families, I think updated equipment would only help to make it grow more so!

Thank you for your time and work on projects such as these. They keep our neighborhood a great place to live.

Muria Kruger
1687 Lincoln Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
651-226-0471

From: [Martinez, Jody \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
To: [Messer, Alice \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [Lehmann, Daley \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: FW: Highland Rec Center Playground
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:47:46 AM

From: Kate Meixell [mailto:katemeixell@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Martinez, Jody (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Highland Rec Center Playground

Ms. Martinez,

I am writing to urge you to provide funding to improve the playground and playing fields at the Highland Rec. Center. We live within a half mile of this playground, and with two young children, head there regularly for outdoor play. It is obvious that this playground is outdated. Many of the pieces of equipment are broken, or regularly in need of repair, including the digging cranes and the handicap-accessible swing. There is graffiti on the ship play structure for the youngest children as well. And although sand is fun for the children to play in, it is not the best material for those with physical disabilities. Replacing the existing, outdated, and run-down playground with one that is more accessible for a wide variety of children and their caregivers is a good investment in our community.

Thank you,
Kate Giambelluca
2094 Scheffer Ave. St Paul, MN 55116
651.528.6838

From: Tony Giuliani
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 2:16 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Hillcrest fields

Hi Daley,

I'm a current resident of highland park and wanted to write quick note to weigh in on the proposal to replace/renovate the hillcrest playground and playing fields. Unfortunately I'm not able to make the community meeting tonight but I wanted to pass along my support of both of these propose initiatives. As a kid that once played on those fields over 30 years ago and now with kids of my own that have played there (soccer, t ball and as current athletes at highland catholic) it has been disappointing to see little to no improvements to that land in decades. They are not safe and honestly quite embarrassing for a multitude of reasons. I have to imagine that the tax base for those that use those fields is probably one of the highest in St. Paul and I believe it's our turn, especially after a 30 plus year wait.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Tony Giuliani
2154 pinehurst ave
St. Paul, mn. 55116

From: Barth, Bill

Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 3:15 PM

To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Please Support the Capital Improvement Budget - PLEASE READ

Dear CIB Committee,

My family and I live about a block away from the Hillcrest Recreation Center. My kids participate in the Hillcrest Rec Center sports programs and we also use the fields and playground for family recreation such as tossing the football or lacrosse ball around, kicking the soccer ball around, or just swinging and playing around on the playground.

There's just no nice way to put this...these fields are really an embarrassment to the City of Saint Paul; they are atrocious. Highland Park residents of Saint Paul, indeed all residents of the City of Saint Paul, pay an inordinate amount of property taxes to live where they live, and when I look at the amenities provided to residents of the suburban communities I often wonder why we do. Please help us.

Please support the Capital Improvement Budget to improve the play are and the fields. I'm personally in favor of artificial turf fields being installed, but any improvements would be greatly appreciated and very welcome!

Thank you for your consideration!

Bill Barth
890 Kenneth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55116
651-690-2682
651-210-0313

From: vivalaerin@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 5:02 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: HPCC Field and Play Area Improvements

Good Afternoon,

My name is Erin Probst. My family and I live at 1927 Saunders Avenue in Highland Park. We have lived in Highland since 2006. Our children (ages 9, 8 and 4) have been very active at the Highland Park Community Center (HPCC, formerly Hillcrest) through the various offerings of the Saint Paul Parks & Recreation program. In addition, our family utilizes the play area and fields on a regular basis throughout the year. Over the past several years, the equipment has become outdated and well-worn, while the fields seem beyond a simple repair as they are dusty and dry (or muddy and wet...depending on the weather), with rocks and large holes throughout.

We are very much in favor of the proposed improvements to the fields and play area at the new HPCC. Our family would like to ask the Capital Improvement Budget committee to vote in favor of both of these proposed improvement projects.

Our family is there often and would greatly benefit from these improvements, as would the community. In a further show of support, my kids and I will be at City Hall tonight. My daughter, Nora, will be playing volleyball tonight (for HPCC) and is unable attend. I'll have her notes with me to read in case I have the opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Erin Probst

From: Patrick
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 5:04 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Hillcrest Fields

Daley,

I just found out about the meeting tonight to discuss possible renovations to Hillcrest. I am 38 years old and grew up playing football and baseball there. I am now in a position to coach my own children and have, on occasion, used those fields. They are a disaster right now and borderline dangerous. I've been on a large number of "rec" fields across the city and Hillcrest is among the worst. That's saying something!

I know there are a large number of organizations that make use of those fields and you could probably find a way for many others to make use as well. Please, please fix those fields. The tax base supporting that area is sick and tired of seeing other rec centers improve while ours continue to languish.

I wish I could be there tonight. Please fix the fields.

Pat

1808 Wellesley Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

Patrick Petschel 651-216-2539

From: CenturyLink Customer
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 6:36 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Tony Giuliani; Dan Matschina; MARK WINGERD
Subject: Hillcrest Athletic Fields

Mr.Lehmann: I would like to add my voice to the many from Highland Park regarding upgrading the fields at Hillcrest. Please consider all of the children that live in Highland that use this park not only for City sponsored activities but all the kids that are on those fields at recess throughout the school year. When compared to other similar areas in the City they don't even come close. I know that young parents that are thinking of moving into Highland look at those fields and say they get a lot more for their money(property tax money that is) in the Burbs.There is no comparison.Real Estate taxes are out of line in Highland...on that item alone Highland deserves an upgrade....it's our turn. Thank you,Tim & Judy Giuliani 2087 Pinehurst ave. (43 years) and 68 year residence of Highland Park.

From: s.l.kennedy@att.net
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 9:36 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee

Dear Committee,

My name is Sean Kennedy. my family and I live at 1751 James Avenue in St. Paul, Zip Code 55105. I support funding to maintain the Hillcrest Field site for youth baseball and softball. As Ted Williams said, "Exercise is the key" (he said this as advice in stroke recovery, but I think it applies to kids today.

thank you for your efforts.

Appreciatively,

Sean Kennedy

From: Ryan Macumber
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 7:50 AM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee

Hello -

My name is Ryan Macumber and I'm writing in support of the following projects:

1. [The Highland Park Community Center Play Area](#)
2. [Highland Park Community Center Fields](#)

Our kids play on the Hillcrest fields for daycare and school and we'd love to see the fields improved to help improve the safety of the surface and also (hopefully) result in fewer ripped clothes!

Thank you,
Ryan Macumber

Capital Improvement Budget Task Force
C/O John McCarthy
Office of Financial Services
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

The Highland Business Association is happy to submit this letter of support for the 2016/2017 CIB proposal to upgrade the outside playground at the newly remodeled Highland Park Community Center.

The neighborhood looks so great with the updated sidewalks and newly remodeled library it is a shame to have a play area that is so dated and unsafe.

Sincerely,

Kari Tierney
Executive Director
Highland Business Association

From: Rachael Caruso
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:14 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee

Dear Daley Lehmann,

I am writing in HIGH support of the Highland Park Community Center Field and Playground renovations.

This play area is located in the heart of Highland Park and is well loved by the community. It is adjacent to the newly renovated Highland Park Community Center, which already has a high volume of usage, and with the newly renovated library usage will greatly increase. St. Paul Parks and Recreation also utilizes the adjacent fields for extensive programming, and there are several area child care centers, as well as two elementary schools within a few blocks radius. A new play area at the Highland Park Community Center will provide a safe place for children in the community to play outdoors and meet the needs of the community. PLEASE consider making this renovation a reality!

Thank you,

Rachael Caruso
1811 Hillcrest Ave - St Paul, MN

From: Rachael Caruso
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 8:15 PM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee

Dear Mr. Daley Lehmann,

I am writing in HIGH support of the Highland Park Community Center Field and Playground renovations.

The Highland Park Community Center currently has an athletic field that is used for both baseball and soccer. The area is adjacent to the newly renovated Community Center, which includes the Highland Park branch library. It is a significant hub of activity with continued programming through Parks and Recreation throughout the spring, summer and fall. Current usage is estimated at over 100,000 and there are generally wait lists for programming on the fields. The condition of the current field area is inadequate for the amount of use from the community and is unsafe for use due to the rocky soil and water runoff issues. The Community Center is centrally located in Highland Park and in addition to the community center adjacent to the field, there are two elementary schools within blocks, and many child care centers. In 2013, Hillcrest Recreation Center was the 2nd most visited recreation center in Saint Paul with 266,655 visitors. However, the existing field was ranked in the top 5 for replacement.

PLEASE consider making this renovation a reality!
Thank you,

Rachael Caruso
1811 Hillcrest Ave - St Paul, MN

From: Highland Parkers

Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:50 PM

To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)

Subject: CIB Committee - Fund the Highland Park Community Center Play Area and Community Center Fields

Dear CIB Committee,

I would like to voice my support for CIB funding for the The Highland Park Community Center Play Area and Community Center Fields. These two areas are an important asset to the community, and are heavily used by kids of all ages, every day of the week during Spring, Summer and Fall, and by the adults and children that come from all around to visit for Highland Fest.

The field is in terrible shape, with very little grass. It is mostly weeds and dirt. And the play area equipment is really showing its age, especially the area for the youngest of children.

Now that the Library / Community Center has been renovated, it would be great to have its surroundings renovated to the same level of excellence for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Robert Kuhl
1804 Highland Parkway
Saint Paul, MN 55116
651-699-6304

From: Anthony Pierpont
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2015 6:31 AM
To: Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)
Subject: CIB Committee/ Hillcrest project

Greetings

I would like to send my support of the CIB Committee and hope that you and others can find the funding to complete the entire Hillcrest park renovation.

Thank you

Anthony Pierpont
RES Realty
12280 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 103
Burnsville, MN 55337
Direct 612 850 8039
Fax 612 395 5352