

Como Regional Park Long-Range Plan

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is included in the Long-Range Plan regarding the Lakeside Pavilion?

As identified in this Long-Range Plan, the Lakeside Pavilion is an integral piece of the Regional Park and provides opportunities for community events, recreation, and leisure on Como Lake. This Plan identifies the overall needs for this building and site while the Como Lakeside Pavilion Vision Plan aims to provide a more in-depth look at the building, site, and programming of the Pavilion and how improvements to the building can provide better public facilities to serve more Park users. The illustrations from the Vision plan (a separate process from the Como LRP) are not a final design and future community engagement and in-depth analysis is needed before changes are made to the building or adjacent landscape.

Information about the Como Lakeside Pavilion Plan can be found in chapter 1 of the Long-Range Plan.

What is the plan for East Como Lake Drive?

The Como Long-Range Plan recognized both the support and concerns received regarding the potential closure of East Como Lake Drive. Further study is needed to explore: full road closure, partial road closure, or modification of this route. Planning considerations include lake water quality, non-motorized circulation, safety at intersections, and potential traffic impacts to the surrounding community on the east side of Como Lake.

Information about potential improvements to East Como Lake Drive can be found in chapter 4.

How are concerns about safety and lighting at Como Regional Park being addressed?

The Long-Range Plan identifies pathway segments in need of lighting for equity, accessibility, and safety through comments received from community feedback. Some of these segments have also been identified in the two Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) plan documents conducted by the Saint Paul Police Department.

Information about specific areas where lighting improvements are proposed can be found in chapter 4.

Does this plan identify new recreational programming for the Park?

One of the Guiding Principles of the plan is to “welcome, embrace, and integrate emerging cultural and recreational trends.” Additionally, two of the Plan’s priority projects are to increase seasonal programming opportunities and to explore opportunities for alternative recreational activities such as disc golf, skills park, dog park, bike pump track fitness stations, pickleball courts, etc. The need for seasonal programming opportunities is consistent with the Parks and Recreation System Plan and options for recreation are vital for regional parks and evolving communities with diverse recreational interests.

Information about new recreation programming at Como Regional Park can be found in chapter 4.

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How does the Long-Range Plan address accessibility?

A key component of the Como Regional Park Long-Range Plan is improving accessibility throughout the Park. Proposed improvements include upgrades to pedestrian ramps and path surfaces to ensure ADA compliance, updated trail markings, improved signage and wayfinding, more frequent benches and places to rest, improved parking areas, additional ADA parking where necessary, and adding path lighting in low visibility areas. Additionally, accessible restrooms (seasonal or temporary) both at the Lakeside Pavilion and throughout the Park are a top priority of the Plan.

Information about specific accessibility improvements can be found in chapter 4. A framework for parkwide improvements for accessibility can also be found in chapter 4. Proposed and improved restroom information can also be found in chapter 4.

How does the Long-Range Plan address winter recreation and maintenance?

One of the Plan's guiding principles is to "Design, program, and maintain to promote year-round activity". The need for seasonal programming opportunities is consistent with the Parks and Recreation System Plan and options for recreation are vital for regional parks and evolving communities with diverse recreational interests. Included among the project priorities are to increase seasonal programming opportunities, such as grooming additional trails for cross-country skiing, the construction of a warming house for Mount Como, and to provide a path connection from the Wolf Lot to Mt. Como.

Recommendations regarding winter maintenance can be found in chapter 4.

What is the City doing to protect the natural resources of this Park?

The City partners with a number of agencies and organizations including the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD), MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Ramsey County, among others to ensure preservation of Como Regional Park's Natural Resources. Specific recommendations in the Long-Range Plan include planting and maintaining trees for added shade, native prairie plantings for native habitat, shoreline seeding and stabilization with native plantings to reduce erosion, and signage with information about the importance of natural resource in the Park. Several projects related improving our natural resources are included in the "Habitat" section of our Project Priorities.

Information about natural resources and the City's partner organizations can be found in chapters 1, 2, and 4.

Visit the project website to view the Como Regional Park Long-Range Plan Draft and find more information and updates about the project.

www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/como-regional-park-projects