

CIB Project Proposal Form – STREETS AND UTILITY (SU) & COMMUNITY FACILITIES (CF)

Thank you for your interest in the Saint Paul Capital Improvement Budget.

Please respond to each question listed below. If it does not apply to your project, state that it is not applicable. The questions are designed to correspond with how projects will be scored by citizen task forces.

Please do not submit the proposal until it is complete.

You will present your proposal to a CIB task force in March or April, and you may distribute additional materials then. All proposers will be sent presentation instructions in February.

Section A – Background Information

Project Title: Highland Park Community Center Fields
Proposing Agency, Group, or Individual: Highland District Council and City of St. Paul Parks
Proposer's Address: 1978 Ford Parkway, Saint Paul, MN 55116
Contact Person: Kathy Carruth and Jody Martinez
Phone Number: 651-695-4005
Primary E-mail Address: hdc@visi.com
Address or Cross Streets of Proposed Project: 1978 Ford Parkway
Citizen Participation District(s): 15
City Council Ward(s): 3

Map of Citizen Participation Districts and Wards can be found here:

<http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentCenter/View/75433>

Which category best describes your project?

Community Facilities

Streets and Utilities

Please indicate that you are aware of the City's public art ordinance. Text of the ordinance may be viewed online at: <http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/12228>.

Additional Public Art information can be found here: <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=4167>

Yes No

Please indicate that you have read the CIB eligibility Requirements, found here:

<http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentCenter/View/75366>

Yes No

Please provide a short (50 words or less) description of your project:

This proposal includes the development of an artificial turf athletic field at the Highland Park Community Center. Site improvements will include storm water management features and landscaping.

Section B – Narrative/Long Description

Please describe the project. Provide pertinent information, using the following questions as a general guide:

- Why is this project important?
- Is there any historical context we should be aware of?
- What does this project accomplish? What problem is it trying to solve?
- Will this project occur in phases or stages? What are they?

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.

Section C – Fit with Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Project importance. Consider criteria such as (but not limited to):
 - Project stabilizes the structural or mechanical integrity of an asset
 - Project improves or creates an asset that is currently in high use or demand
 - Project improves or creates an asset to meet new demand
 - Project improves the functionality of an asset
 - What is the need for this project

The field at the Highland Park Community Center is unsafe and inadequate for the needs of the community. This project will improve the fields so they are a safe asset that meets the Parks and Recreation programming needs of the surrounding community.

- 2) Safety concerns. Consider criteria such as (but not limited to):
- Project remedies safety issues that pose a danger to the community
 - Project addresses code violations or other mandates or legal requirements

The field is unsafe in its current condition. Much of the Parks and Recreation programming at this location is aimed at young children (ages 3+) and they are playing on fields that are packed dirt in many areas, with rocks at or right below ground level. Additionally, the water table is very high in the area and storm water runoff is a concern. Parts of the field easily flood and the runoff poses a safety concern for adjacent streets, particularly during times of overnight temperatures near freezing.

- 3) Demonstrated support. Consider criteria such as (but not limited to):
- Project demonstrates community support and organizational commitment
 - Proposal demonstrates evidence of community collaborations or partnerships
 - Continued funding is needed to deliver expected services or to preserve an asset
 - Project leverages outside funding
 - What progress, if any, has been made on the project

St. Paul Parks and Recreation is committed to maintaining a new field at the Highland Park Community Center and can do so within its existing budget. The community greatly supports a new field, as is evidenced by this joint proposal between the Highland District Council and St. Paul Parks and Recreation.

- 4) Community benefit. Consider criteria such as (but not limited to):
- Project significantly benefits a neighborhood, district, area, or city as a whole
 - Project enhances livability by improving quality of life or property values, providing unmet needs, improving safety or accessibility, etc.
 - Project improves aesthetic appearance of an asset or area through landscaping, public art, lighting, signage, or other design features

The city will benefit by having a field that will allow for safe use for expanded Parks and Recreation programming and improves the quality of life and livability for our community.

- 5) Long-range impact. Consider criteria such as (but not limited to):
- Project's impact on future operating costs (both increases/decreases)
 - Project exceeds standards in environmental sustainability
 - Project provides tangible return on investment
 - Project is included in City-approved plan
 - Project maintains an asset with historical significance
 - Project demonstrates ability to achieve stated outcomes

St. Paul Parks and Recreation has ranked the Highland Park Community Center fields in its top five worst fields. The department would maintain a new artificial turf field in a similar manner to the McMurray athletic fields, the Oxford Community Center fields, and the Rice and Arlington Sports Complex.

Section D – Additional Information

- 1) Additional information requested. Please provide additional information that would be important to know about your project. Information can include, but not limited to, the following:
- Traffic count on street projects
 - Pavement condition of streets
 - Number of people who use facility
 - Demographics of surrounding community

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Hillcrest sports are a major segment of usage. Between June and August, six weeks of T-Ball are played. During this period, we usually have 8-12 teams of 10-12 children who play ball ranging from age 3 to age 6. The total participant attendance ranges from **500 – 850** and in addition parent spectators are an additional **1,600-1,800** attendees. There are also around 2 near ball (7&8 year olds) games at Hillcrest during that period adding around **150** more attendees. In the fall, between September and October, our outdoor soccer program begins. Participants for this program range from age 3 to age 8 in three segments (4U, 6U, and 8U). This year we had 14 teams with an average of about 10 kids per team, so about 140 participants playing six games each. In the past, we've had over 20 teams. Depending on the year, participant attendance ranges from **850-1,400**, with **1,700-3,000** spectators for the six weeks of the program.

Besides the games themselves, our older soccer participants (10U, 12U and 14U) who play their games offsite, practice on our field at least one night a week. Generally, this means there are about an additional 60 kids practicing for about 10 weeks. That total comes to about **600** participants.

Highland Catholic School uses the grounds for daily recess from September through early June. Generally, an average of 300 students use the fields from September through November and again the same number from March through early June. The average goes down to about 225 from December through February. These are Kindergarteners through Sixth graders. The approximate totals from these numbers alone are around **49,000** students.

From spring through summer, a number of non-Hillcrest groups use our fields for baseball and softball. These groups include Highland Little League (baseball - ages 10-16), Highland Catholic School baseball (ages 9 -12), Nativity baseball (ages 9-12), Highland Softball (ages 10-16), and St. Paul Softball (ages 12-14). These groups use our fields from April through August. Highland Catholic and Nativity use our fields for baseball games and practices from April through the first week in June. The softball season generally is played from late May through August. These groups accounted for approximately **1,600** additional participants and about **3,000** spectators on 45 dates, including both games and practices, and including a number of multiple games or practices on those 45 days.

Highland Fest weekend generally occurs the second weekend in July. The event takes place from Friday through Sunday with scheduled concerts, movies, amusements and fireworks. In addition the grounds are used for setup the Thursday before. On the low end, the approximate attendance is about **9,500** individuals and can actually go over **12,000** people depending features and weather.

Lastly, on any given day we have 30 to 150 individuals who use the fields for pick-up games, flying kites, walking dogs or just general use. Those individuals could be any age from grade school children to senior citizens. This would account for an additional **10,000** to **50,000** individuals.

If you add these totals together, you get a total usage of **78,500** to **123,400** in any given year using Hillcrest field space.