



Resolution 2026-79

RESOLUTION APPROVING A DONATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD AND MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY CLAY COURTS RELATED TO FUNDRAISING, DONATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CLAY-SURFACED TENNIS COURTS AT EAST 46TH STREET AND SOUTH 32ND AVENUE IN MINNEAPOLIS, WITHIN MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of the Minneapolis park system;

Whereas, MPRB owns and operates Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail, including lands within the Ericsson neighborhood of Minneapolis;

Whereas, Several courts in the area have been recently reconstructed or are slated for reconstruction as part of a vision across multiple parks to provide a high quality, varied, and trail-connected racket sports experience in this part of Minneapolis;

Whereas, Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC) is a Minnesota non-profit organization formed for the purpose of creating and maintaining public clay-surfaced tennis courts for all-ages recreation;

Whereas, The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Plan, adopted by MPRB on November 18th, 2020, envisions the preservation of tennis courts in Segment 4 at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue;

Whereas, MCCC and MPRB, in partnership, implemented and maintain clay-surfaced tennis courts at Waveland Triangle in southwest Minneapolis, which were on among the first public clay courts in the Midwest and are extremely popular;

Whereas, MPRB approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MCCC on February 21, 2024, through Resolution 2024-20, to collaboratively implement clay-surfaced tennis courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue;

Whereas, MCCC and MPRB have been advancing their respective responsibilities outlined in the MOU, including fundraising and removing the degraded asphalt surface, and agree that a proper and expedient next course of action is the creation of a Donation Agreement to further implement two clay-surfaced tennis courts at East 46th Street and 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail;

Whereas, Through this Donation Agreement, MCCC will construct a significant portion of the clay-



surfaced tennis courts using funds raised and upon completion of the construction MCCC will donate the clay-surfaced tennis courts to the MPRB;

Whereas, MCCC is willing to modify its existing Stewardship Agreement with MPRB related to Waveland Triangle, approved under Resolution 2021-322, to include care and maintenance of these additional clay-surfaced tennis courts at East 46th Street and 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, under Goal 1: "Foster belonging and equity," Goal 3: "Provide core services with care," and Goal 4: "Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships;"

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves a Donation Agreement Between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Community Clay Courts Related to Fundraising, Donation, and Implementation of Clay-Surfaced Tennis Courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue in Minneapolis, Within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail; and

RESOLVED, That the President and Secretary of the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Administration & Finance Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent, Planning

DATE: 4/29/2026

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING A DONATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD AND MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY CLAY COURTS RELATED TO FUNDRAISING, DONATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CLAY-SURFACED TENNIS COURTS AT EAST 46TH STREET AND SOUTH 32ND AVENUE IN MINNEAPOLIS, WITHIN MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL

BACKGROUND

This action would approve a Donation Agreement between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC), a nonprofit organization. Under the Donation Agreement (*Attachment A*) MPRB and MCCC would collaborate on many aspects of implementation of two clay-surfaced tennis courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail. Additionally, while these courts are being constructed, MPRB and MCCC would develop an amendment to the existing Stewardship Agreement between the MPRB and MCCC for Regular and Seasonal Maintenance of Clay-Surface Tennis Courts at Waveland Triangle (Resolution 2021-322) to include the new bank of clay-surfaced courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail.

On February 21, 2024, MPRB approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MCCC to collaboratively implement clay-surfaced tennis courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail (Resolution 2024-20). Through this MOU, examples of activities performed include MCCC raising funds to build the clay-surfaced tennis courts and MPRB removing the degraded tennis court surfacing and supporting MCCC's fundraising efforts. The Donation Agreement builds on the work outlined in the MOU, is the next step in collaborative implementation of the clay-surfaced tennis courts, and if approved, would supersede the MOU.

The Donation Agreement addresses fundraising, design, and construction of the clay-surfaced tennis courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail. Fundraising efforts, which are well underway, would fall entirely to MCCC. As fundraising proceeds, MCCC and MPRB staff would develop the design for the courts and cooperatively initiate community engagement efforts following a Community Engagement Plan. Once key fundraising efforts are met, a contractor would be engaged by MCCC to implement portions of the clay-surfaced tennis courts. In the construction, the MPRB would take on certain responsibilities, including, for example, the extension of water service to the location of the tennis courts (clay-surfaced tennis courts require water to retain the integrity of the clay materials). Upon completion of the construction, the courts would be donated to the MPRB and



an amended Stewardship Agreement including the new courts would be brought to the MPRB Board of Commissioners for approval.

Several courts in the area have been recently reconstructed or are slated for reconstruction as part of a vision across multiple parks to provide a high quality, varied, and trail-connected racket sports experience in this part of Minneapolis, which includes pickleball-only courts (Nokomis Recreation Center), tennis-only courts (across from Nokomis Recreation Center), and combination tennis/pickleball courts (Bloomington Avenue). The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Plan, adopted in 2020, envisions the continuation tennis at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue (*Attachment B*). Having clay-surfaced tennis courts at this location would implement the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Plan, expand the variety of options in the area, provide a multi-generational opportunity for tennis play, and become a second set of public clay tennis courts for the Minneapolis Park system. This project would be coordinated with improvements to the tennis-only courts across from the Nokomis Recreation Center which would also be implemented in partnership with community partners, under an agreement being considered by the Board of Commissioners at the same meeting as this one. By improving both the courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail, as well as the tennis-only courts across from Nokomis Recreation Center, five tennis courts would become available for the community to use and enjoy.

COSTS AND FUNDING

In discussions with MCCC, MPRB staff have apportioned work related to the implementation of the clay-surface courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail (see Attachment A for the apportionment of responsibilities). MPRB costs will be funded through NPP20 Rehabilitation Funds, either under construction and/or procurement contracts following MPRB purchasing rules or as staff time in the Environmental Stewardship Division coded to these funds. Though the proposed clay courts exist within the boundaries of a regional park (and are not inside one of the neighborhood exception areas within the regional system), tennis courts are ineligible for regional funding, putting them in a challenging financial predicament in terms of their improvement and rehabilitation. Ultimately, these are neighborhood assets only and are therefore eligible for NPP20 Rehabilitation funding. They would not, however, become eligible for capital funding under NPP20.

Ongoing maintenance of the new clay tennis courts will be performed by MCCC under a stewardship agreement, similar to the situation at Waveland Triangle, which has been a successful partnership. Additional costs to MPRB will be extremely limited. Clay tennis courts require more regular maintenance than is normally necessary for courts in the Minneapolis system. As an engaged community partner, MCCC can ensure a consistent and high quality playing surface for all users.



The Donation Agreement has been reviewed and approved by legal counsel as to form and content.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS

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| October 20, 2021 | Resolution 2021-322: Resolution Approving a Stewardship Agreement Between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Community Clay Courts for Regular and Seasonal Maintenance of Clay-Surfaced Tennis Courts at Waveland Park, a Part of the Minneapolis Park System |
| February 21, 2024 | Resolution 2024-20: Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Minneapolis Community Clay Courts, a Nonprofit Organization, for Collaborative Implementation of Clay Tennis Courts at East 46 th Street and South 32 nd Avenue in Minneapolis, within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail |

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a Donation Agreement Between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Community Clay Courts Related to Fundraising, Donation, and Implementation of Clay-Surfaced Tennis Courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue in Minneapolis, Within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail.

This action is supported by the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036.

Goal:

01. Foster belonging and equity

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03. Provide core services with care

Strategy:

1.8: Prioritize youth and seniors in programming and park projects through ongoing research, proactive engagement, and embedding innovation in our culture and practices.

1.13: Support people’s ability to age in community through inclusive engagement, programming, facilities and passive, low-impact recreation opportunities.

3.7: Design, evolve, and maintain high quality athletic facilities including fields, diamonds, skateparks, ice rinks, courts, and tracks to support a range of multigenerational sports balancing tradition and emerging trends.



04. Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships

4.1: Establish well-defined programmatic, facilities, and events-based partnerships with clear goals, evaluated through an equity lens, to increase the MPRB's level of service that support a wide range of partnership types including individuals, businesses, organizations large and small, and other government agencies.

This action is further supported by the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Plan, adopted in 2020:

- Project 4-M: Renovation of Tennis Court at 32nd Avenue (pages 7-28 and 7-29)

Attachments:

1. Attachment A - Donation Agreement with Minneapolis Community Clay Courts
2. Attachment B - Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Plan Pages

Jbr 4.29.2026.