



Resolution 2025-169

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR GRANTS THROUGH THE 2025 HENNEPIN COUNTY YOUTH ACTIVITIES GRANT PROGRAM NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 EACH FOR GIRLS FASTPITCH IMPROVEMENTS AT ONE PARK IN THE NORTH SERVICE AREA AND THE NORTHEAST SERVICE AREA, DISC GOLF AND STAIR ACCESS AT KENWOOD PARK, AND CLAY-SURFACED TENNIS COURTS WITHIN MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of Minneapolis parks and is authorized to seek funding from outside sources;

Whereas, The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, via the Hennepin County Youth Activities Grants (HCYAG) Program, provides capital funds to assist units of local government in Hennepin County in the development of sports or recreational facilities and playgrounds;

Whereas, MPRB has approved long-range vision plans for each of the MPRB-owned and operated parks being considered in this action, and the HCYAG program funding will advance implementation of much-needed recreational capital improvements;

Whereas, MPRB evaluated potential projects to identify the best alignment of upcoming funded project in the MPRB the capital improvement program, partnership with other organizations, and the criteria defined as part of the HCYAG program;

Whereas, MPRB 2025 HCYAG program applications have been coordinated with the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) through a cooperative agreement that, since 2021, ensures a more competitive grant cycle for each agency by not competing against each other;

Whereas, MPRB, in partnership with MPS, will apply for a project in Hennepin County Commissioner District 2 (Fernando), and MPRB apply for projects in Hennepin County Commissioner Districts 3 (Green) and 4 (Connelly) during the 2026 HCYAG program cycle;

Whereas, MPRB and MPS will apply for funding to support girls fastpitch improvements at one park in the North Service Area and/or the Northeast Service area, with locations defined by the Superintendent following further assessment of funding and definition of scope by MPRB and MPS, with locations in Hennepin County Commissioner District 2;

Whereas, MPRB will apply for funding to support a three-hole disc golf course and a new stairway to providing access to the restroom enclosure and court area at Kenwood Park in Hennepin County Commissioner District 3;



Whereas, MPRB will also apply for funding to support clay-surfaced tennis courts within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail in Hennepin County Commissioner District 4, a project proposed as a collaboration with Minneapolis Community Clay Courts; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, which sets Goal 1 to “foster belonging and equity”, Goal 3 to “provide core services with care,” and Goal 9 to “operate a financially sustainable enterprise;”

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Superintendent to apply for grants through the 2025 Hennepin County Youth Activities Grants program not to exceed the amount of \$300,000 each for girls fastpitch improvements at one park in the North Service Area and/or the Northeast Service Area, disc golf course and stair access at Kenwood Park, and clay tennis courts within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to 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: 3 September 2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR GRANTS THROUGH THE 2025 HENNEPIN COUNTY YOUTH ACTIVITIES GRANTS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 EACH FOR GIRLS FASTPITCH IMPROVEMENTS AT ONE PARK IN THE NORTH SERVICE AREA AND/OR THE NORTHEAST SERVICE AREA, DISC GOLF AND STAIR ACCESS AT KENWOOD PARK, AND CLAY TENNIS COURTS WITHIN MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL

BACKGROUND

This action would authorize Superintendent to apply for grant funding under the Hennepin County Youth Activities Grants (HCYAG) program for amounts up to \$300,000 each for the following projects:

- One park in the North Service Area and/or the Northeast Service Area (District 2) – girls fastpitch improvements
- Kenwood Park – disc golf course and a new stairway
- Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail – clay tennis courts

Local Government Units (LGU) must include a Letter of Attestation (*Attachment A*) authorizing submission from its governing board and that the LGU is prepared to be the fiscal agent for the award, to disburse the funds, and to ensure the funds are used as listed in this application.

Hennepin County Youth Activities Grant program

The HCYAG program hosts multiple grant cycles per year, providing grants for the following opportunities:

- **Water safety:** funding to support free and reduced cost swim lessons, and lifeguard services
- **Sports:** funding for play areas (sports facilities, playgrounds, play spaces) and sports equipment
- **Arts:** funding for arts and music supplies, education, and programming

Approximately \$1.3 million have been allocated this grant cycle. The HCYAG program is anticipating awarding approximately 15-30 grant awards for Play Areas, Equipment, Lifeguard Services, and Arts and Music projects throughout Hennepin County.



The Play Area Grant supports opportunities for youth aged 18 and younger to participate in sports and play by providing funding for the creation, expansion, and improvement of athletic facilities, recreational facilities, playgrounds, and other play spaces. Grants up to \$300,000 are available. The contract term for Play Area Grants is expected to be 1/1/2026 – 12/31/2027 but may be subject to change.

There is no minimum grant request amount.

HCYAG program evaluation criteria includes the following:

- Degree to which the project ensures accessibility for underserved populations;
- Number of youths served by the project;
- Degree to which the project demonstrates feasibility;
- Demonstration of community need for the project;
- Degree to which the program is sustainable over time;
- Consideration of geographic distribution of projects;
- Demonstration of financial need for the project;
- Degree to which additional funding or donations have been secured; and
- Partnerships between local government units and local organizations

MPRB staff evaluated potential MPRB projects using the HCYAG program grant guidelines, along with additional MPRB criteria:

- Whether there is capital or outside funding available during the grant timeframe (to increase capacity of existing projects);
- Whether the project lacks other funding options;
- Size of the project in relation to the funding that is available;
- The 2025 capital equity ranking of the park;
- How well it meets requirements of the HCYAG program; and
- Project conformance with MPRB Comprehensive Plan and long-range park plan(s).

The projects proposed for the 2025 application cycle tap into existing funding opportunities and/or increase MPRB's ability to add new youth amenities into existing projects.

Staff acknowledges that recreational improvements are needed throughout the Minneapolis park system and that one grant application/award per year per Hennepin County Commissioner District will not resolve this need. Historically, the Minnesota Youth Sports Commission has strongly encouraged the MPRB to apply for one project from each Hennepin County Commissioner District per grant application year.



The MPRB 2025 HCYAG applications have been coordinated with the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) through a cooperative agreement since 2021, which ensures a more competitive grant cycle for each agency by not competing against each other. During this grant cycle, MPS and MPRB will partner to apply for a project in Hennepin County Commissioner District 2 (Fernando), and MPRB will also apply for projects in Hennepin County Commissioner Districts 3 (Green) and 4 (Connelly) during the 2025 HCYAG cycle.

Proposed 2025 Grant Year Requests

The 2025 grant applications are due on September 30, 2025, and each application request can be up to \$300,000. Based on the combined HCYAG program and MPRB criteria, MPRB staff recommends applying for the following projects:

Girls Fastpitch Improvements at one park in the North Service Area and/or the Northeast Service Area (Hennepin County Commissioner District 2, Fernando):

The MPRB and MPS are cooperating on improvements at softball fields in parks in the North Service Area and/or the Northeast Service Area aimed at meeting the MPS Title IX compliance order and directives of the MPRB's Diamond Sports report. The locations for field improvements will follow plan directions found in the North Service Area Park Plan and the East of the River Park Plan, with the Superintendent providing administrative approval for the grant application and improvement locations. If the long-range plans are not aligned with the intended field improvements, staff would prepare a resolution to amend the long-range plans for consideration by the Board of Commissioners..

The improvements will implement new and improved field amenities at parks one or both service areas, greatly raising the quality of the fastpitch fields. The initial phase of construction is slated to begin after the high school fastpitch season in 2026 with the fields scheduled to be ready for play in Spring 2027. Whether the application includes one or two locations will be determined through further cost estimates and capacity analysis by MPRB and MPS.

Disc Golf and Stair Access at Kenwood Park (Hennepin County Commissioner District 3, Green)

The MPRB-approved Southwest Service Area Park Plan identifies adding a new stairway at Lincoln Avenue to provide safe access to the restroom enclosure and court area and a three-hole disc golf course on the western side of the central hill near Oliver Avenue South. Both improvements will be built alongside upcoming 2026 CIP funds for playground improvements, so these funds will increase access to and amenities for youth within that project.

Kenwood Park is unique as it sits adjacent to Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, the most visited regional park in the MPRB system, and Cedar Lake Regional Trail, a well visited and connective trail. Kenwood Park also sits adjacent to Kenwood School and supports resources and programming for youth, both local and regional.

Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Clay Tennis Courts



The MPRB-approved Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Plan includes a number of park improvements across the entire trail corridor. In the eastern segment between Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Regional Park, MPRB started the initial implementation and transformation of three banks of tennis courts in 2024. The courts along 30th Avenue have completed the transformation and the courts near East 47th Street and South 34th Avenue are in the process of being transformed into a bike skills park. For the bank of three courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue, which are planned to remain tennis, demolition of the old court surfacing has been completed, and the site is ready for construction of the new courts once funding is available.

MPRB and the Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC), a nonprofit organization, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2024 to collaboratively implement clay tennis courts at East 46th Street and South 32nd Avenue within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail. Clay tennis courts are supported by the community and would help to further diversify court sports in this part of the city by providing an opportunity for youth to experience tennis on a surface not typically available outside of private courts. Since the approval of this MOU, MCCC has been working on raising funds to support the implementation of these courts. Per the responsibilities for MPRB under the MOU, MPRB pursued approval from the Metropolitan Council (Met Council) to include clay tennis courts as an allowable use within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail, which was not supported. If the grant is awarded, the funding will be used to fill the remaining funding gap needed to construct and implement the clay tennis courts. Presently, this grant opportunity is one of the only ways MPRB could support bringing funding to this project.

As the final grant applications are prepared, the final amount of the grant request will be determined by how it fits within the overall project estimate and other available funding. Final grant requested amounts may be adjusted accordingly.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS

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
January 23, 2024	Minnehaha Creek Segment 4 Tennis Courts Transformation Community Engagement Assessment
November 18, 2020	Resolution 2020-330: Resolution Adopting the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan
October 7, 2020	Resolution 2020-310: Approving the Southwest Service Area Master Plan



March 27, 2019	Resolution No. 2019-135: Resolution Approving the East of the River Park Master Plan, as Amended in Committee to Include Amendment 1A, 3B and 4C to Keep All the Routes on the GRML Plan and to not have a Preferred Route
February 6, 2019	Resolution No. 2019-106: Resolution Approving the North Service Area Master Plan, as Amended to Reduce Parking in Bryn Mawr Park by 20 Percent and Include Moderate Impact Amendment 21E to Include 4 Tennis Courts and No Skate Park in North Commons Park

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners authorize the Superintendent to apply for grants through the 2025 Hennepin County Youth Activities Grants program not to exceed the amount of \$300,000 each for Girls Fastpitch Improvements at one park in the North Service Area and/or the Northeast Service Area, Disc Golf and Stair Access at Kenwood Park, and Clay-surface Tennis Courts 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

Strategy:

1.19: Create and support activities and welcoming spaces for teens and young adults in the parks for both programmed and unprogrammed activities.

03. Provide core services with care

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.

09. Operate a financially sustainable enterprise

9.6: Diversity funding streams to leverage existing funding through grants, site-specific revenue generations, sponsorship, and public/private partnerships through an equity lens.

Attachments:



1. Attachment A: Attestation Letter Template

Jbr 9.3.2025.