

MEMO

CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Kevin Hansen, Director of Public Works / City Engineer

DATE: April 16, 2025, for Commission meeting of April 23, 2025.

SUBJECT: **Process for the Development of a Permanent Soccer Field**

The City of Columbia Heights recreation department runs soccer activities through its youth programs, primarily after other early programs such as softball have concluded. In large part this is due to soccer fields are overlaid on existing athletic fields such as in Huset Park.

At the April 7th Council Works Session meeting, the Council brought up the lack of a permanent or dedicated soccer field to serve the community and directed staff to begin the process for implementation. Staff have met with our park planner to develop that process as expeditiously as possible. In broad terms, the soccer field development will include:

- Review of parks where the space needs of a soccer field can be met (much of this has already been done).
- Robust Public Engagement:
 - Invite stakeholders
 - Invite community, park neighborhood where soccer fields may be considered
 - Facilitate through open house and online forum
- Size and need of soccer field (who will use)
- Develop concepts
- Review and final site selection
- Review and update selected park Master Plan
- Develop cost estimate

It is intended that this entire process will be facilitated through the Park and Recreation Commission in 2025. This would conclude with a Commission recommendation to the Council this Fall so construction plans may be developed for 2026 construction.