



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home □ Jobs & Economic Vitality □ Eco-Focused □ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives □ Many People, One Minneapolis □ A City That Works

Parkland Dedication Ordinance Ensures Needed Green Space Preservation and Development in Minneapolis

December 20, 2013 (Minneapolis) - The Minneapolis City Council and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) jointly approved this month a new Parkland Dedication Ordinance that applies a contribution of land or a fee to new development as a tool in creating and improving parks in the City. A funding tool common across the country and in the Twin Cities metro, parkland dedication will be instrumental in ensuring that the Minneapolis park system keeps pace with population and job growth.

The ordinance, which goes into effect on January 1, 2014, was approved by the Minneapolis City Council on Friday, December 6 and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board of Commissioners on December 18.

“This ordinance is long overdue. The Park Board and City, along with our legislators, have been working toward this for years as a way to provide park land and facilities in growing districts of the city that are essential to urban vibrancy and resilience,” said John Erwin, president of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The Metropolitan Council has projected that by 2040, more than 46,000 new households will be added to the city and more than 137,000 new jobs.

The ordinance requires that new residential and commercial development projects in the City of Minneapolis dedicate a reasonable amount of land for park creation, or pay a fee to the Park Board for future land acquisition or park development within one-half mile of the development project.

For example, new residential development in downtown Minneapolis (defined as the geographic area of the City bounded by Interstate 35W, Interstate 94, Plymouth Avenue, and the Mississippi River) will provide .0066 acres (288 square feet) of land for every unit. New residential developments outside of downtown will provide .01 acres, or 436 square feet per residential unit. In lieu of dedicating land, developers can choose to pay a fee of \$1,500 per new or additional residential unit.

Commercial development projects of more than 5,000 square feet will provide 100 square feet of land or a cash payment equal to the dedicated land value up to \$200 for each potential job created by the project. In both cases, the maximum amount of land dedication is capped at 10 percent of the total area being developed. In the case of redevelopment, only additional units or employees added to the site from its previous use will be counted. Affordable housing units are exempt from the Parkland Dedication requirements.

“Parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, bike paths, and open space areas within Minneapolis are essential to maintaining a healthy and desirable environment for residents and persons employed within the City,” said Doug Kress, City of Minneapolis Development Services Director. “As a growing City, it is our responsibility to preserve and develop these vital resources. The Parkland Dedication Ordinance will help ensure that parkland is available for present and future generations.”

All funds generated through the Parkland Dedication Ordinance will be spent on the development of new parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, wetlands, trails, and open space areas within the nexus of where the development occurs (.5 miles). Funds may also be used to upgrade existing neighborhood and community parkland, trails, equipment, etc. Funds may not be used for programming or maintenance activities.

More detailed information on the Parkland Dedication Ordinance can be found on the City of Minneapolis website [here](#).

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