

To: The Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board of Commissioners

The Environment & River Gorge Committee for Greater Longfellow (encompassing the neighborhoods of Cooper, Longfellow, Howe, and Hiawatha) strongly supports the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan and urges the park board to pass this plan without further delay.

Lake Hiawatha is the closest lake to our neighborhood and many of our residents visit it to recreate. As a neighborhood bordering Minnehaha Creek downstream of the lake, we are one of the first of many communities to be impacted by the water management decisions made at Lake Hiawatha. Pollution doesn't just stay in the lake, it flows into the creek, the Mississippi River, and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico. Unmanaged floodwaters don't only affect the golf course, they are also pushed downstream into our neighborhood and cause damage at Minnehaha Regional Park.

We understand that the Hiawatha Golf Course has an important history to Black golfers and that the master plan is opposed by some community members who want to keep 18 holes of golf. However, any plan for this site must start with a foundation of responsible water management. We believe that the 9-hole master plan is the best way to keep some golf at the park while appropriately managing flooding and pollution.

Signed,
Environment & River Gorge Committee, Longfellow Community Council