



**GUIDING PRINCIPLES PROPOSED FOR TEMPORARY OCCUPANCY OF SOCHACKI PARK FOR CONSTRUCTION STAGING OF THE METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION LRT PROJECT:**

**Principle A:** The temporary occupancy of Sochacki Park is proposed solely by the Blue Line Extension Project Office (BPO), and is being proposed only due to the lack of prudent and feasible alternatives.

**Principle B:** BPO will provide an opportunity for the public to provide input on the proposed construction staging and park revegetation plan prior to construction.

**Principle C:** The proposed boundaries of impact are as shown on Map Attachment A Those boundaries within Robbinsdale may be adjusted at the discretion of the City of Robbinsdale, and those boundaries within the City of Golden Valley may be adjusted at the discretion of the City of Golden Valley.

**Principle D:** Any additional Golden Valley lands, including Bonnie Lane, may not be used for LRT construction or construction access without prior notice, review and formal approval by the City of Golden Valley.

**Principle E:** Sochacki will remain open for public use during LRT construction, and will include contiguous and safe north/south travel by pedestrians and bicyclists through the entire park. Access sites from the interim trail to the area east of the construction road will be provided in order to enhance access.

**Principle F:** If the BPO uncovers any environmental contamination in its use of Sochacki, the BPO will be responsible for required environmental remediation in accordance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) permitting requirements.

**Principle G:** Any areas that are disturbed by construction activities that are adjacent to wetland and water bodies must be restored with native vegetation buffers in accordance with the Wetland Conservation Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**Principle H:** BPO will incorporate the results of a BLRT Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) into construction staging planning. Phase II results and MPCA permitting requirements resulting from this site assessment will be communicated to JPA and the cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale.

**Principle I:** BPO will require their construction contractor to develop a final Sochacki Park Construction Staging Plan, consistent with mitigation commitments made to the JPA and the cities of Robbinsdale and Golden Valley and based on the results of further engineering and environmental investigations. Input from the JPA and the cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale will be sought prior to BPO accepting the Contractor's final Sochacki Park Construction Staging Plan.

**Principle J:** The Met Council will not be responsible for long-term operations and maintenance of all infrastructure restored and/or constructed by BPO.

**Principle K:** BPO commits to ongoing coordination with the JPA and the cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale. Coordination efforts will continue through all phases of BLRT project development, including engineering, final design, and construction.

**Principle L:** The determination of temporary occupancy under Section 4(f) for Sochacki Park and the following subsequent actions to provide mitigation and equitable compensation was made based on the project definition within the Municipal Consent plans and the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement at a 15% level of design.

**14 ACTIONS PROPOSED TO PROVIDE MITIGATION AND EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FOR THE TEMPORARY OCCUPANCY OF SOCHACKI PARK FOR CONSTRUCTION STAGING:**

- 1) Removal of existing vegetation as agreed to by BPO staff and JPA staff within the restoration zone, defined as A) the southern construction staging area, and B) the northern staging area, blending into the adjacent disturbed areas in the NE quadrant of the park.
- 2) Removal and disposal of all surface rubble within the restoration zone, in accordance with MPCA permitting requirements.
- 3) Addition of clean fill and top soil in the restoration zone in accordance with MPCA permitting requirements and consistent with the re-use of this area as guided by stakeholders.
- 4) Development and implementation of a revegetation plan approved by the JPA staff. The plan will address all areas disturbed by construction activities. In addition, the plan will identify practicable additional thickening of the vegetative buffer between the Park and the LRT Corridor where needed and feasible for the purposes of reducing potential visual impacts of the LRT on Park visitors.
- 5) In the southern staging area, N. Rice Lake water edge restoration work and vegetation plantings to provide learning opportunities for park users (design and species TBD).
- 6) Restoration of the existing paved interior road to provide for safe two way traffic.
- 7) Removal or replacement of the northern parking lot to be determined in consultation with JPA staff.
- 8) Reconstruction and expansion of the interior paved parking lot (exact site TBD in consultation with JPA staff), to include room for a school bus turnaround.
- 9) Clearing, revegetation and fencing of an area immediately east and north of the interior parking lot within the northern staging area for future use as a dog off leash area.
- 10) Providing practicable utility services to a site adjacent to the interior parking lot for future development of a bathroom/storm shelter, and drinking water fountain.
- 11) Ground preparation for a future education shelter sized for 50 students in a location TBD.
- 12) Construction of a water education platform on N Rice Lake
- 13) Redevelopment of a safe 10-foot wide paved trail through the length of the park, running from the northern entrance to the current trail terminus by Bonnie Lane; with restoration along the trail edge as needed.
- 14) Construction of an off-road trail connection from the existing terminus of the Sochacki Park trail at Bonnie Lane, crossing underneath the reconstructed Golden Valley Road Bridge and connecting to the existing trail in Theodore Wirth Regional Park.

JPA= Joint Powers Authority (Robbinsdale, Three Rivers, Golden Valley)

BPO= Bottineau Project Office (Met Council/Met Transit=Blue line LRT)

TBD= To Be Determined