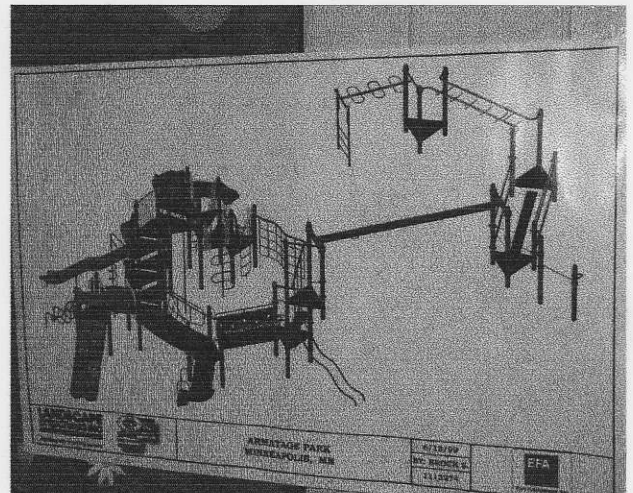




ARMATAGE NEIGHBORHOOD PHASE I HIGHLIGHTS

Armatage Park Playground Design

This project was entirely initiated and driven by Armatage neighborhood residents. A group of mothers with young children were interested in seeing the existing playground torn down and a new playground constructed. It was this same group of mothers who approached the ANA to find out how to go about seeing this happen. The group of young mothers formed a playground sub-committee of the ANA, and met with the architects and MPRB to see that their vision would become a reality. This group also formed a partnership with the Armatage Community School to gain their input in this process. Including the school was important because the entire student body grades K-5 uses the playground on a daily basis. This was an excellent example of a grassroots effort on the part of residents to turn a vision into reality with their leadership.



Armatage Parking Lot for Seniors

A group of active seniors from Armatage and other neighborhoods meet at Armatage Park for a variety of programming activities on a monthly basis. During a focus group conducted by the ANA, seniors expressed a desire to expand the existing parking lot closer to the building to allow for increased accessibility for seniors, disabled visitors, and Metro Mobility. The seniors joined the ANA in working with the MPRB and City Council Steve Minn to find funding for the project and to implement the construction. About 10 additional spaces were added. Four of these spaces are reserved for handicapped parking and four are "reserved" for senior visitors. This project was successful in leveraging funds to fulfill a need identified by the citizens of the neighborhood who were active participants in the process.

Armatage Park Playground Loan

To access complete funding for the new playground, the ANA and playground sub-committee needed to find additional funding from within its' action plan. A decision was made to temporarily loan funds to the MPRB from the ANA Housing Improvement Program. To accomplish this, a ballot was sent out to every household in the Armatage Neighborhood. The vote was overwhelmingly in support of the transfer of funds. The ANA then presented the plan modification to the NRP Policy Board and received support to proceed with the loan to the MPRB. Although this was a lengthy approval process that was contentious at times, the neighborhood is very pleased to have accomplished the playground construction four years ahead of the MPRB's scheduled renovation.