

Macalester Groveland Community Council Resolution
Passed by the MGCC Board of Directors on July 9, 2020

WHEREAS Macalester Groveland is home to beautiful parks, schools, recreation centers, play areas, and other places of public accommodation, which are welcome to all and part of the vibrant fabric underlying our neighborhood and community; and

WHEREAS Mattocks Park is one of the few parks in Saint Paul, and the only in Macalester Groveland, managed by the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department not attached to a recreation center, and has play areas, open green space, tennis courts, and one of the only half-court basketball courts in Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS St. Paul Parks and Recreation has received input from neighbors wishing to use facilities at the park that they have been harassed, made to feel unwelcome, and unfairly targeted on the basis of race and perceived place of residence; and

WHEREAS the basketball equipment at Mattocks Park, including a crank designed to make the half-court basketball court accessible and adjustable, facilitating use for a variety of groups, ages, and games, was removed without permission by unknown neighbors, rendering the court inaccessible for many; and

WHEREAS this behavior is inconsistent with the nature of public parks, the legal requirements of places of public accommodation, and the spirit of inclusion, welcome, and anti-racism that should govern the conduct of everyone who lives, works, learns, plays, worships, or visits in Macalester Groveland and the City of Saint Paul;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Macalester Groveland Community Council affirms the rights of all people to use all facilities in all parks and playgrounds throughout the City of Saint Paul, and condemns any attempt by individuals to prevent any person from doing so on the basis of any protected class status such as race, religion, disability, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity, or place of residence.

FURTHER, be it resolved that the Macalester Groveland Community Council specifically affirms that parks within Macalester Groveland are welcome to all and that no person should be denied access, harassed, or made to feel unwelcome or asked to leave on the basis of race or perceived place of residence.

FURTHER, be it resolved that the Macalester Groveland Community Council is committed to engaging in a collaborative, ongoing process with the City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, district councils, and neighbors, including anyone who lives, works, learns, or plays in Macalester Groveland to ensure that all people feel welcome in city parks and other places of public accommodation within Macalester Groveland and throughout the City of Saint Paul. Such a process is necessary and consistent with the Macalester Groveland Community Council's commitment to inclusion and diversity, and part of the ongoing work undertaken by the Inclusivity Task Force as directed by the Council and its Board of Directors.