

**Department of Community Planning and Economic Development - Planning Division**  
Vacation 1523

**Date:** July 16, 2007

**Applicant:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)

**Address of Property:** 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue North east of the West River Road

**Contact Person and Phone:** Liz Van Zomeren – MPRB 612-230-6470

**Planning Staff and Phone:** Jim Voll 612-673-3887

**60-Day Review Decision Date:** Not Applicable

**Ward: 5 Neighborhood Organization:** Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (Near-North)

**Existing Zoning:** I1 Light Industrial District, Mississippi River and Shoreland Overlay Districts

**Proposed Zoning:** Not applicable for this application.

**Zoning Plate Number:** 13

**Legal Description:** That part of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue North lying east of West River Road North, and; south of Outlot A, and north of Outlot B, North Washington Industrial Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition to Minneapolis; all according to the recorded plat of record, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

**Existing Use:** Vacant land.

**Concurrent Review:** Street vacation. No other applications are necessary at this point.

**Background:** The MPRB is acquiring the parcels adjacent to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue North east of the West River Road and will begin implementation of Phase I of the *MPRB Above the Falls Master Plan* for trails. The proposed trails and associated features will occupy land currently platted as 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, which is a paper street that is not paved east of the West River Road. Normally when streets stub into lakes or the river, planning staff has not recommended approval of vacations due to the concern over losing public access to these resources. In this case however, the land will remain with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to be utilized for public trails, so staff is recommending approval of the vacation.

**Development Plan:** Please see the attached MPRB trails plan.

**Responses from Utilities and Affected Property Owners:** Qwest has facilities in the area and requests an easement in the area to be vacated. The Minneapolis Public Works Department reserves an easement for an existing storm sewer.

**Findings:** The Public Works Department and Community Planning and Economic Development Department – Planning Division find that the street proposed for vacation is not part of a public transportation corridor, but that it is needed for a public purpose for public access to the river; however, because it will remain as public parkland with public access to the river, it can be vacated.

**Recommendation of the Community Planning and Economic Development Department - Planning Division:**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Department - Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission and the City Council adopt the above findings and **approve** the vacation subject to the reservation of easements for Qwest and the City of Minneapolis.