The Draft EA/EAW for Crystal Airport evaluates tree removal that may be required within five years of project completion. The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) proposes to remove any trees whose heights are projected to exceed the approach threshold siting surface (TSS) within this timeframe. This airspace surface is defined by FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-13A, Airport Design. At Crystal Airport, the surface slopes upward and outward from the paved runway ends.

PROJECT IMPACTS

Mapping information was collected by aerial survey in September 2018 to provide accurate tree height information. A certified arborist assessed the species, health, and maturity of trees in the runway approaches in April 2018. Based on these data collection efforts, approximately 80 off-Airport trees are expected to penetrate the approach TSS within five years of project completion. Many of these trees would be issues for the existing runway ends even without the proposed Airport changes; therefore, tree removal would be needed regardless of whether the proposed project is completed.

Tree Removal FACT SHEET

Tree removal will occur between November 2020 and April 2021 to avoid animal habitat impacts. Where appropriate, such as along the stream bed in Edgewood Park, stumps will be left in place to control erosion. Remaining desirable trees will be protected to the extent feasible and reasonable. Replacement trees will be provided if desirable trees are damaged during removal of nearby trees.

Minimizing Impacts in Edgewood Park

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recommends that airport operators protect airspace in runway approach and departure areas by removing, lowering, relocating, marking, lighting, or otherwise mitigating existing objects that could impair future takeoff and landing operations. Airport operators must proactively manage vegetation in these areas to foster the continued usability and safety of the airport. Protecting these areas also helps keep residents and surrounding neighborhoods safe.
Of these 80 trees, approximately 30 are located in Edgewood Park. These trees are located in the wooded area south of the playground.

Based on arborist observations:

- **Cottonwoods** make up approximately 70 percent of the trees in this area of the park.
- **Boxelder and Siberian elm** each constitute approximately 10 percent of the trees.
- The remaining 10 percent of the trees consist of various species, including silver maple and hackberry.

All of the trees to be removed within Edgewood Park are cottonwoods. The MAC will continue to monitor the growth of several other cottonwood trees in the park following project implementation.

The remaining 50 trees are outside Edgewood Park in the approaches to Runway 14L in Brooklyn Park, Runway 24R in Brooklyn Center, and Runways 6L and 32R in Crystal. Most of these trees are located on private residential lots and three are located in public rights-of-way.

Based on arborist observations, most of these trees are silver maples. However, various other species are represented among these trees, including green ash, Siberian elm, white poplar, blue spruce, and honey locust.

**TREE REPLACEMENT IN EDGEWOOD PARK**

Species selection for replacement trees in Edgewood Park will be part of a landscape and/or wildlife plan developed in concert with the City of Brooklyn Park. Hackberry, bitternut hickory, red oak, and bur oak are examples of suitable replacement native species.

**WHAT CAN HOMEOWNERS EXPECT?**

In early to mid-2020, the MAC will contact the homeowners of the private residential lots where tree removal will take place. Tree removal is anticipated to occur between November 2020 and April 2021.

- Homeowners will be compensated with fair market value for trees removed on their property.
- The MAC will provide suggestions for replacement trees that mature at height ranges below the TSS.
- Suitable low-growing species include flowering crabapples and dogwoods, dwarf white pine, and American plum.