As part of the EA/EAW process for Crystal Airport, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is required to evaluate whether trees within the departure and arrival paths of aircraft could pose operational issues within five years of a proposed project’s completion. This area of concern is called the “threshold siting surface” (TSS) and 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. This is the area in which the MAC proposes to remove trees that meet the criteria.

**PROJECT IMPACTS**

In September 2018, the project team conducted an aerial survey of the TSS areas in order to obtain accurate tree height information. Prior to this, in April 2018, a certified arborist assessed the species, health, and maturity of the trees. The arborist conducted a more focused assessment of the trees in Edgewood Park in October 2018. Based on these data collection efforts, it was determined that approximately 80 trees are expected to penetrate the TSS within five years of project completion. It was also determined that many of these trees will pose issues for the existing conditions; therefore, tree removal will be needed regardless of whether the proposed project is completed.

**Minimizing Impacts in Edgewood Park**

- **The MAC will replace any trees removed within Edgewood Park with suitable low-growing species.**
- **Remaining desirable trees will be protected to the extent feasible and reasonable, and replaced if damaged during removal of nearby trees.**
- **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.**

**Tree Removal FACT SHEET**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recommends that airports actively plan for keeping objects out of the way of departing and arriving aircraft by removing, lowering, relocating, marking, lighting, or otherwise mitigating existing objects that could affect future airport operations. This includes proactively managing vegetation—including trees—in these areas to ensure the usability and safety of the airport.

- **Minimizing Impacts in Edgewood Park**
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  - Remaining desirable trees will be protected to the extent feasible and reasonable, and replaced if damaged during removal of nearby trees.

**Crystal Airport Environmental Assessment Tree Fact Sheet**

www.metroairports.org
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 proposed to be removed within the park are cottonwoods. In addition, the MAC will continue to monitor the growth of several other cottonwood trees 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 the rest 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.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission will remove trees whose heights are projected to exceed the approach threshold siting surface within five years of project completion.

TREE REPLACEMENT IN EDGEWOOD PARK

Replacement of the trees in Edgewood Park will be part of a landscape and/or wildlife plan developed in concert with the City of Brooklyn Park. Species selection for these replacements will take place as part of that plan and could include hackberry, bitternut hickory, red oak, and bur oak, as they are examples of suitable 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 financially compensated based on the fair market value for trees removed from 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.