

How Public Input Guides Our Work

Themes reflected in Public Realm Plan guided by feedback from all 2015 public engagement meetings, Open St Paul Surveys, and Pop-Up Meetings



Values Reflected in Feedback



Safe and accessible for all ages



Live, work, and play space



Equitable and inclusive



Incorporate all modes of transportation



Environmentally Sound, feature natural beauty



Development cohesive with surrounding area

“Diverse selection of job types. High-tech to bicycle repair.”

“Lights, safety, good ways to clear snow; keep it clean and inviting”

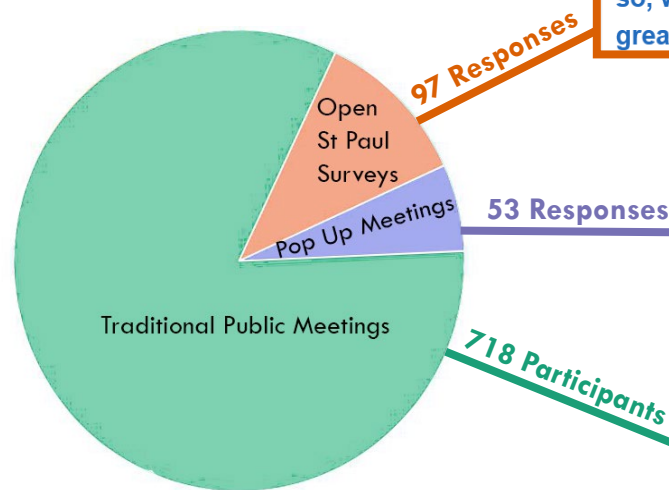
“Build for the long term”

“Advocate for above standard”

“All types of housing. I want to see a million-dollar-condo next to the co-op and low income units.”

“No homogeneity, diversity always”

“Prioritize pedestrians and cyclists through design”



[Urban Neighborhoods](#)

What makes a great urban neighborhood? Are there neighborhoods that we should look to as inspiration for redevelopment of the Ford site? If so, what are they, where, and what makes them great?



“Engage community and make art interactive”

Parks and Open Space

Key Feedback from the February 2015 public meeting



"I love the idea of the civic square as a connector to existing Highland"



Resounding support for connection to Hidden Falls

"Make [the NE park] a gateway with a clear entrance that identifies Highland Park"

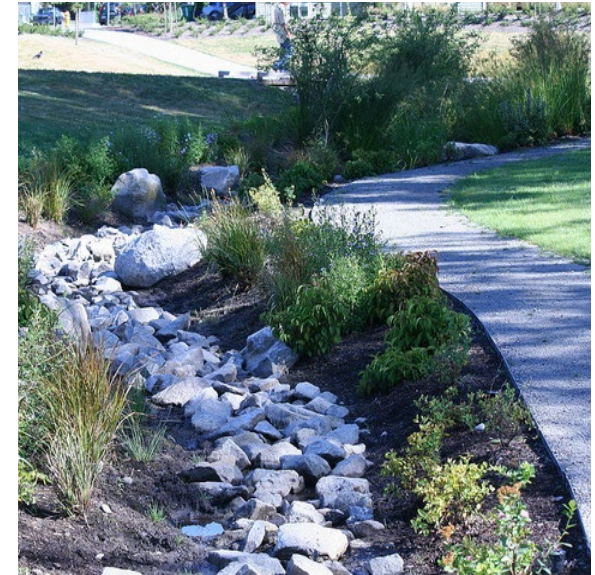


Top priorities include creek, gathering spaces, and habitat to provide natural feel and focus

"Cooperate with neighboring athletic fields and schools to save valuable space on-site"



"Integrate the stream and stormwater features with the trail"



Desire for native plants, flowers, and ample garden space

"Multi-purpose recreation space is more efficient and will serve more people"



"Space for lifelong sports"

The above statements reflect the key messages we heard from the public on these topics. Text in "quotes" are specific comments received.

All feedback from this meeting can be found [here](#), and the video for this meeting can be viewed [here](#)

Bicycles, Pedestrians, and Transit

Key Feedback from the April 2015 public meeting



Guiding Comments

“Prioritize pedestrians and cyclists through design ”



Traffic calming, co-location, mode separation between pedestrians, bikes, and cars considered very important

“Separated or protected lanes benefit bikes and cars”



Pedestrian/Bike Corridors

Pedestrian Mainstreet



“Love the idea of an east/west pedestrian mainstreet terminating at the river. Nice if some cycling was allowed”

“Lights, safety, good ways to clear snow in winter; keep it clean and inviting”

Neighborhood Corridor



“I really like the idea”

“The narrower the better”

Thoughts on Transit

Preference for bus and Bus Rapid Transit over Light Rail Transit and streetcar

- “Good bus shelters are key, four walls and a roof, wind protection”
- “Co-locate with transit so cyclists can hop on/off trams/buses”
- “Frequent! Regardless of mode”



Ideas Related to Bike Infrastructure

- “Lots of bike racks everywhere” bike racks in public space most requested support facility
- “3 wheel bike[share] stations at senior living facilities”
- “The Rail Spur is a great area for bike/pedestrian trail” most support for rail spur conversion to a trail

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Streets, Parking, and Traffic

Key Feedback from the May 2015 public meeting



Traffic Considerations

Most people agreed with the quote:

“Goal on Ford site is to accommodate cars, not to encourage them”

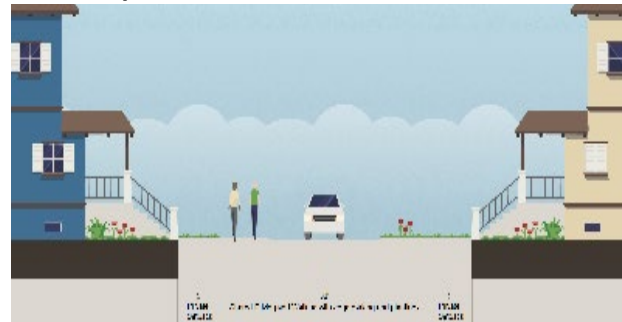


Desire for calmer streets and separation of autos from people biking and walking, “start with the pedestrian as the foundation”

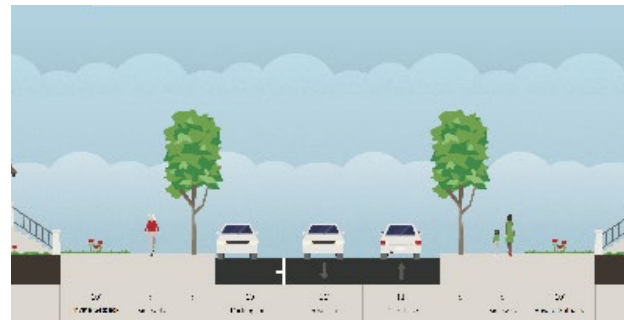


Street Types with Most Support

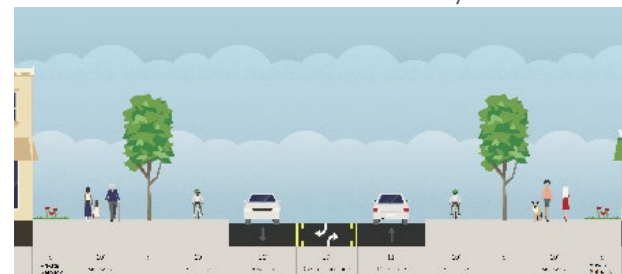
Very Low Volume- Residential Lane



Low Volume- Residential Corridor



Medium Volume- Collector/Arterial



Thoughts on Parking

Share the creation and cost of parking among public/private and user/landowner.

- “Whoever is going to receive the revenue should build the parking”
- “Keep parking somewhat scarce but plentiful enough to support businesses”



Strong preference for parking in structured ramps, as opposed to surface parking lots; while also providing parking in alleys and along streets.

- “Large garage... [so] then people don’t have to drive through to find parking”
- “No large parking lots!”

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Water, Waste, Art, and Greenery

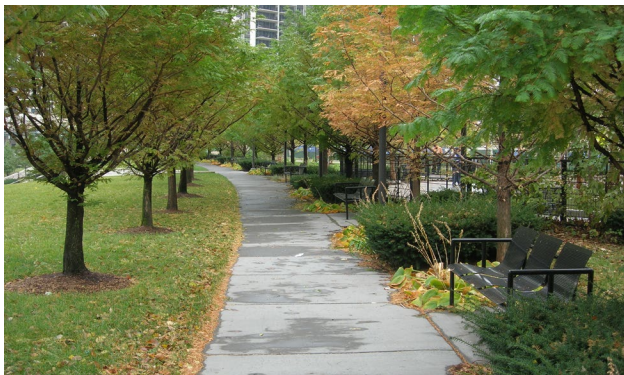
Key Feedback from the June 2015 public meeting and Open Saint Paul survey



“Everything we’ve talked about [streets, parking, bikes, jobs, housing] revolves around the creek”

Why we want stormwater treatment visible:

- “to communicate visually our community’s commitment to the environment educating and celebrating stormwater innovation”
- “as reminder, reinforce that water is being recycled”
- “It’s a treasure.”
- potential to “incorporate in a park or public art venue”



“Maximize ‘stroll-ability’” from Ford neighborhood to Mississippi River, “Trails and trees are the best features”

History is more than just the Ford Plant: Unions, Geology, Native American...



“Like the idea of connecting Hidden Falls to Ford site”

“...advocate [for] above standard--preserve land and feature water openly.”

Strong preference for natural/water based art—“Incorporate nature”



“Engage community and make art interactive”



“Make recycling easy so people will do it”



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Housing

Key Housing Feedback from the July 2015 public meeting, Open Saint Paul survey, and Pop-Up Meetings



Input Themes:

- “Don’t look at this opportunity as revenue generation-- this is a ‘quality of live in the urban city’ opportunity”
- “No homogeneity, diversity always”
- “I think we need to invest in Highland area for seniors and younger people. Highland is a great family area.”



People are interested in attracting amenities for all ages through density



Desire for lower building heights near the river.
River views listed as an amenity.

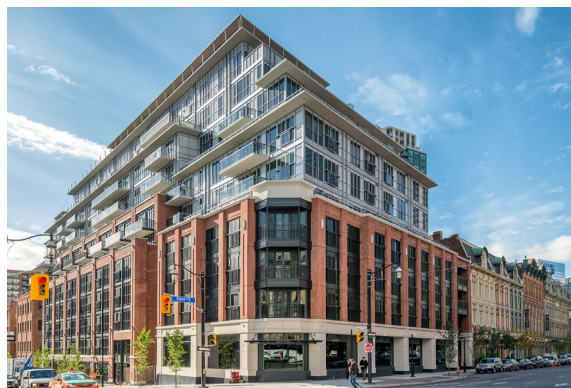


Suggestions to consider co-housing or co-operative housing for the site



Concern that tall structures could disrupt the existing built fabric of Highland

Top design picks at different density levels



”[housing stock] diversity will ensure things are desirable in the long term”

“We should be encouraging people to think of neighborhoods as places to live, work, and play...”

Build whole communities!”

Affordable Housing:

Respondents identified an unmet need for affordable housing in Highland; “more affordable housing for seniors, families”

Housing Design:

- Preference for natural elements and traditional style
- Support for tiering taller buildings back at higher floors
- Desire for accessibility considerations

Support for all Types of Housing:

- “I am very interested in co-housing”
- “Mix of apartments & condos”
- “Single family detached”
- “All types of housing. I want to see a million-dollar-condo next to the co-op and low income units.”

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Jobs

Key Jobs Feedback from the July 2015 public meeting, Open Saint Paul survey, and Pop-Up Meetings



How to Define a Good Job:

- “Child care near employment.”
- “Ability to live where you work. A \$15/hour job probably won’t allow someone to live in Highland Park [now]”
- “Options for people to work and advance without having a degree”



On retail:

- “Build for long term. Will be affordable in 20 years. Mixed use please.”
- “Dense and diverse retail/services in walkable format. No new boxstores!”
- “Provide incentives for small business to avoid having it become completely large businesses.”



Building Types for Jobs:

- “Green build, sustainable materials, creative designs.”
- “Need some focal points, as well as variation in form, texture, color”
- “Co-op office spaces to share”
- “Put some emphasis on ‘incubator-like’ spaces for helping the techie work and develop”



On Types of Jobs:

- “Diverse selection of job types. Full-time professional to part-time service-related. High-tech to bicycle repair.”
- “Make a neighborhood where an entry-level worker can stay in the same area for more advanced jobs.”
- “A maker zone--a shared area for crafters, IT etc. to work together”
- “Limit industrial use”



“This shouldn’t be a destination to visit, it should be a place where people live and work”

“Creating housing commensurate with the jobs created on the site makes sense – helps encourage walking to work, less traffic, sustainability”

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