



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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**Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan  
Task Force Meeting #7 Notes  
February 17, 2011**

**Guiding Principle: Recognize, celebrate, interpret and seek to preserve the historic, cultural and natural resources in a way that fosters stewardship while providing recreational amenities appropriate for a regional park.**

**Staff Present:**

Kathleen Anglo, Project Manager, Parks & Recreation Design  
Ellen Stewart, Parks & Recreation Design  
Cy Kosel, Parks & Recreation Environmental Services  
Karin Misiewicz, Parks & Recreation Operations & Maintenance  
Brian Tourtelotte, Parks & Recreation Design

**Task Force Members Present:**

Julie Gugin, Task Force Chair	Marjorie Pitz
Colleen Ashton	Sue Richter
Ned Brooks	Jane Russo
Jacob Dorer	Steve Trimble
Anne Kolar	Leonard Wabasha
Brian Miller	Wally Waranka

**Task Force Members Absent:**

John Anfinson, National Pk Serv.	Candy Petersen
Stephanie Harr	Tom Ross
Irene Jones	
N. Scott Larsen	

**Guests:**

Melvin Houston, Santee Sioux Nation  
Pete Palma, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

*Comments added by the task force are in italics*

**Welcome & Recap of last information from Public Open House:**

**Focus Area 1 –**

- **Dog Park** – removed from draft master plan because of comments received at open house and the proposal to put one in at Mounds Park Maintenance when the facility is relocated –
  - *Those commenting may not have recognized topographical position of the proposed area.*
  - *Concern about parking and it becoming a destination*
  - *If it is a smaller sized dog run area, is it well placed within a Regional Park?*



- **Discussion “inconclusive” but if there is a place that it may be ok to put one in and it becomes a requirement for the park, this would be the best spot.**
- **Stairway connection** – shown on the draft master plan
  - *Discussed reasons the funded stairway project not implemented (location near demolished mounds, destruction of bluff face)*
  - *Description of positioning of proposed stairway*
  - **Conclusion: It would be good to have a stairway connection between the parks**
  - **The stairway is allowable if it is considerate of erosion issues, geology, soils, topography, sensitive cultural areas, critical habitat and there is minimal tree removal**
- **Carver’s Cave Overlook Parking Lot** - Should the plan provide direction to relocate this parking lot due to the proximity to the former mounds?
  - *It is better to leave it where it is now since there are different regulations and processes for construction now than there were in the 1960s when it was built. Opening the area up for re-construction would be likely to cause more problems than it is solving.*

### Focus Area 2–

- **Splash Pad** -
  - *Concern about the limited seasonal use.*
  - *Integrate artful, sculptural elements that can be enjoyed in other seasons*
  - *Don’t take room away from the regular play area for this*
  - **Ok to show on the master plan, but it can’t detract from the park.**
  - **Consider something that is sculptural and has more purpose than splash pad**
- **Tennis Court** –
  - **Ok to keep the court in this location.**
- **Skating Rink** –
  - *Would it be possible to use the splash pad for a skating rink during the winter?*
  - **Open lawn area would be suitable for skating if it is desired in the park.**

### Focus Area 3–

- **Mountain Bike Trail**
  - *There are sustainable trail standards*
  - *Is there enough area to have a trail in the park?*
  - *Combined use is an issue –conflicts between peds and bikers*
  - *May be helpful to facilitate connection to and from Battle Creek without riding on road*
  - *Creates more eyes on the park – could provide some safety and surveillance to the trails*
  - **Preference of group to not have mountain biking in the park. Too small of an area to program loops and a lot of concern about the sustainability of the paths, issues of erosion, conflicts of uses with hikers/walkers, etc.**
- **Skate Park**
  - *Seems out of place in a natural resource based park.*
  - *Doesn’t fit well anywhere*
  - **Preference to not have skate park within Indian Mounds.**
- **Disk Golf**
  - *Too many trees*
  - *Not a priority*
  - **Recommendation to not include disk golf in the park**

### Mounds Maintenance–

- **Connection between Cypress and Suburban**
  - *Still would be too much traffic driving through*
  - *Preference to not show connection at parking lot. Instead just have Cypress come into the park*

- **Off Leash Dog Area**
  - *Looks too big*
  - *Doesn't look large enough*
  - *Reconfigure the gardens and the OLDA and the play area, but the use is appropriate*
- **Community Gardens**
  - *Locate play area more centrally within the community gardens*
  - *Consider a greenhouse for year round use*
- **Basketball**
  - *Would need a bigger buffer between the courts and the residences*
  - *Larger buffer between courts and play area, community gardens, etc.*
  - *There isn't enough room to have a big enough buffer and basketball should go*
  - *Parking lot is too close to the courts – would play music and hang out in parking lot*
  - *Basketball not preferred at this location*
  - *Explore moving basketball to highway 61 area*
- **Safety**
  - *Concern about the park's lack of frontage and position in the back yard of people's homes.*
  - *Suggestion to lock the park at night*
- **Overall recommendations:**
  - **Provide better visibility of the park through the treatment of the entrance at Cypress.**
  - **Do not place basketball in this park – it is too small and surrounded very closely by residences. Basketball is not compatible within this context.**
  - **Keep uses more passive – OLDA, community gardens, play area.**
  - **Relocate the play area so that it is more centralized within the community garden area.**

#### **Johnson Parkway/Burns Avenue/Mounds Boulevard–**

- **Discuss options for providing continuous parkway experience with Public Works.**

*From December Meeting Minutes:*

- *Traffic Counts at Earl and Burns? Most recent traffic count info:*
  - Burns btw. Pt. Douglas and English, AADT = 4,675
  - Burns @ Frank, AADT = 1,725
  - Johnson Pkwy @ McLean, AADT = 2,350
  - Earl @ McLean, AADT = 2,100
  - Mounds Blvd. btw. Plum and Cherry, AADT = 4,425
  - Mounds Blvd. btw. Earl and Thorn, AADT = 1,125
  - Mounds Blvd. @ I-94, AADT = 17,000

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> @ Cerenity Care Center, 6:30 -8:30 p.m. Advisory Task Force review of Master Plan to be submitted.**