

# PHALEN REGIONAL PARK

## 2011 YEAR-END UPDATE

As 2011 draws to a close, I am reminded of how many projects identified in the master plan have been implemented since the adoption of the master plan earlier this year. Perhaps you have visited the park and have already seen these improvements. If you have not, I invite you to visit Phalen Regional Park to see some of these improvements.

### Phalen Wetland Restoration

In 2010, Parks and Recreation partnered with Public works to restore the wetland at the south end of Lake Phalen. This restoration is part of a larger Public Works project to the east just off Clarence Street. Public Works intends to capture more storm water from Clarence Street in a restored wetland on the east side of the railroad embankment. An overflow pipe from that wetland will help replenish water in the wetland on the west side of the railroad embankment. The overflow pipe from Lake Phalen was also restored and will help retain water levels in the wetland at the south end of Lake Phalen. Additionally, Public Works created a new storm water treatment pond on the north side of Maryland Avenue to capture storm water from Maryland Avenue.

### Phalen Historic Arch Bridge

Restoration of the Phalen Historic Arch Bridge began in late 2010 and continued throughout most of 2011.



Although the restoration process was lengthy and tedious at times, the appearance of the recently completed bridge is a welcome sight in the landscape of the park. Restoration of



the bridge has reestablished the channel connection between Lake Phalen and Round Lake. Once the channel thaws it will be possible to once again paddle through the chain of lakes!

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A grand opening to celebrate the completion of restoration will take place in the spring of 2012. The ceremony will include speakers from the community, a ribbon cutting, and possibly a watercraft flotilla.

### **Phalen Waterfall Restoration**

Funding has been secured for the restoration of the waterfall near the north end of Lake Phalen. Data collection and analysis has begun and this information will help determine what can be completed with the available funding. Initially, the plan is to draw water from Lake Phalen, let the water cascade over the waterfall, and return the water to Lake Phalen with a higher oxygen level, which will help improve water quality. It is anticipated construction will begin in spring 2012 and will conclude later that summer.



### **Phalen Beach Splash Pad**

Funding has been secured to develop a splash pad at the Phalen Beach. A

splash pad is a water feature that sprays water from overhead and ground locations while the water drains from the surface immediately. Data collection and preliminary design is underway. Construction of the splash pad will take place in 2012.

### **Phalen Channel Improvements**

Funding has been secured for improvements of the channel between Phalen and Round Lakes. The primary goal of this work is to improve channel flow which will create better navigability, fish habitat, and water quality of the channel and lakes. Currently, data collection and analysis is underway. A community open house will be scheduled after the first of the year to gain input from the community on suggested improvements to the channel.

I encourage you to visit our Current Projects Website for periodic updates and advertisement of upcoming meetings. The website address is as follows:  
[www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1199](http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1199)

I would be happy to answer any questions or comments you may have about these projects!

I'll see you at Phalen!

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