



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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The Most Livable  
City in America

February 15, 2012

Phalen Channel Improvements  
Community Open House  
February 13, 2012

Comments (City responses in italics):

- There used to be a moveable weir in the culvert between Round Lake and Lake Phalen, but that was replaced with the permanent structure in the 1970s. Could we do something like that again? *Due to water quality issues of Round Lake, we are likely to run into permitting issues to change the weir structure in the culvert since this will divert more low quality water into Round Lake rather than emptying into Phalen, which is cleaner and deeper.*
- Will the area around the bridge be restored? *Yes*
- Will the channel be navigable during Water Fest? *Yes*
- What is the schedule? *Construction will begin in late fall 2013 with planting happening in spring 2013.*
- Is there a chance the wetlands may not work? *There is that possibility, but the wetland shelf areas are more like a wet meadow which has shown to be successful in other restoration areas around the lake. The areas will still need maintenance for weeds and debris.*
- Please add more trash receptacles and designated recycling bins on the island (especially with covers) to deter trash from blowing into the water.
- Will there be large boulders at the water edge? *Yes, as nodes for water/fishing access and to create a pleasing aesthetic and structure for habitat.*
- Can we plant more willow trees? *The willow at the south end of the channel was planted in 1898 when it was thought that Phalen may become a state park. There are few native willow species, but some areas will be planted with more riparian tree species. We will look into some appropriate locations for additional willows.*



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- What are floating wetlands made of? *The structure itself is made of recycled drink bottles; it's then planted with wetland plants and anchored to the channel bottom.*
- Can we pump water from the waterfall into the channel? *The historic course of the waterfall runs directly into Lake Phalen. The waterfall will be restored in the fall of 2012.. It will re-circulate water from Lake Phalen vs. the historic design that pumped water from a well.*

If there are any additions or changes to the comments, please let me know.

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