# DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION



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# **Fort Road Federation Annual Meeting**

Annual meeting held April 24, 2013 at Summit Brewery. Boards set-up for public comment.

### **Concept 1 Comments**

"If this is a mound built by white people in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it is offensive to the memory of native of indigenous people."

"Historical plaques"

"No fences"

"Markers for original fort trail"

"Where are benches!"

# **Concept 3 Comments**

"Love having 2 athletic field spaces. This will be move inviting to the kids of the neighborhood!"

"We need a passive park. WHY? A multi-use (noisy-people traffic) athletic field???"

# Victoria Park Open House

Open House held May 14, 2013 in atrium of Nova Classical Academy. 26 people indicated attendance.

# **General Comments**

"Community bread over in a St. Paul park would be a trend setting asset. It needs to be near rest room facilities and running water. Proximity to Mississippi Market and community gardens would be a real plus. Ovens are very good for burning buckthorn."

# **Connections Board**

"Connect to 35E bike trails at Otto and Elway."

# Concept 1

"Work with Great River Greening on landscaping with native species."

"Provide signage about history and wildlife."

"We love these ideas:

- Traditional park closer to Nova and more natural transition to river
- Wetland boardwalk
- Native grasses/plants
- Possible tie-in of historical features such as old Fort Road"

"Concept 1 or 2"

"Would love community gardens, picnic areas, and bread oven on north side close to Mississippi Market. We'd love to sponsor these!"

"Keep it green and economical. Not so tax-payer intensive."

"Victoria Park Apartments

- No soccer
- No lighted fields
- Prefer multi-use to this side of park
- Multi-use concerns with parking
- Discuss river access and ADA
- Parking requirements?
- Easier river access?
- Possibly more community gardens?"

"Move athletic field here." (Arrow points to property owned by Nova)

"No fences. No artificial turf. No lights, but this side."

"Keep field here."

"More trees here."

"L.O.V.E. the water cycles thing. Great idea!"

"Love the trails. Keep the water and wetlands."

"I like native grass open space and jogging trails."

"Where is the dog park?"

#### Concept 2

"Include large sculptures - work with Public Art St. Paul"

"Adequate trash containers for picnic areas, fields and amphitheater."

"Bread and pizza ovens should be located new overlook along with clean-up sinks and restrooms." "Great idea!! Canoe access!!" "Athletic fields on north side." "Good combination of activities – organized athletics, playgrounds & picnic space & natural areas. This will draw in many diverse users!" "Exercise stations on natural side." "Exercise stations along trails! (Low maintenance – pull-up bars, benches, inclined planes, etc.)" "Would appreciate not flat land south of tracks." "Multi-use athletic fields should be on north side of tracks. Concept I or II." "No fences. No artificial turf. No lights, but this side." (Post-it on north side of site.) "The amphitheater might have less noise pollution on the south side of the tracks." "Athletic field can be shared with Nova. And not so close to the tracks." "Prefer athletic fields here." "Prefer all park space, not so sports oriented." "We love the idea of basketball, tennis, multi-use and amphitheater restroom here. - Saint Paul mom and student." "No soccer fields please. Extend sidewalks on both sides of Otto." "Love boardwalk thru wetland. 2 multi-use athletic fields – one north and one south" "Adequate lighting needed for all paths. Love idea of stream."

"Overlooks and access to Shepard Road are important features."

# Concept 3

"This is my last choice."

"Forget this!!!! Concept 3"

"Natural grass fields I know this is more expensive & difficult to maintain, but HGRA does a great job with their fields by Expo!"

"This would be our first choice." - Sholom

# **Committee Comments as Follow-Up to Open House**

"\* Mississippi Market is very interested in having community gardens within sight of their store. They would like to sponsor the garden and include it in some of their programming. They also think that a community orchard could be included, and were disappointed to see it removed from the plans. They would be happy to research other orchards to see how it could be feasible on this site (maintenance issues, etc.). A bread oven adjacent to the gardens might also be utilized by Miss Mkt in their

programming as well

\*Heard secondhand - a representative of the company building the apartments and proposing housing on the seven acre site at Otto attended and expressed some concerns about having the athletic field close to what are planned to be higher-end units (at Otto) - particularly if there is only one road in to access the facilities and parking

\*A resident who lives north of the park about 8 blocks was concerned that the park uses would only be for young people. She said that the majority of her immediate neighbors were single people with no kids. She personally would really like to see a dog park on the site where she could let her dog off leash. She currently goes to the High Bridge dog park and would love to have someplace closer that she could just walk to. She'd really like the off leash area to have varied terrain with some wooded and some open areas"

"Alice - At the welcome table I got the feeling that most visitors were quite enthusiastic and came in with an open mind. Most were from the neighborhood and were aware of the project prior to the open house."

"A woman on Wally Johnson's staff talked to me at station 5 at some length. She indicated she would be at the next meeting of the Advisory. I had sent an invitation to Wally Johnson at Stonebridge Dev. He and their investor are interested in working out shared use ideas for the land at the bluff overlook through the easement. For obvious reasons, she indicated their preference was for the playing fields to be on the north side of the RR tracks. "

"There was wide support for that active park being north of the railroad tracks and passive park south. Many felt there was not a good clear description of how the park would be connected to bike trails and where the biking and walking trails would be located within the park. A number of people want to be sure there are no lights on the soccer fields and they were glad there were no basketball courts."

"I stayed around my station mostly and talked a little about the water features. People really responded to the water feature. The loop feature with water stuck a cord. Especially the idea that in the winter it could be skated upon. Supporting wildlife was important. Especially bird watching. There was concern for activity on the riverside. Someone asked about putting the water feature on the bluff side. Bread ovens, people had questions on how they work. Community gardens close to Mississippi Market, and where is the water access?

Make sure there are enough toilets close to users. Two sets were thought to be too little. Maybe one in the middle as well as the two ends. There was concern about the parking becoming most of the park. They liked the idea of overflow as a grass lot.

We are still turning our backs to on the river with no path to two ends of the beach. The roll of art in park was brought up. They wanted it to be integrated into the park. There was also talk about balancing parking needs with park activities. Someone said that they didn't want the park to be only active use with a parking lot supporting it.

Vary the wetland shape to save the shrub carr area? Since it is sensitive and rare, we should work to preserve it. Is all of the water on the bluff taken care of on the bluff side? Design something that loops into the area next to the Tile building or creates a nice destination there. So that it is not disconnected from the rest of the park and become a problem area. More shaded areas on the bluff and active side of the park? Copses or constructed.

What is the city's position on signage for the park? Would they (the HRA/City) be willing to use the retaining wall at the overlook along Shepard (see photo) as a sign or mural of something more than the graffiti home that it is. Although one neighbor really likes the paint drip lines along the top, I kind of do too."