Frogtown Farm Community Meeting 12/10/13
Park/Farm Design and Program Feedback

OPTION A : Ag-Park

SE and SW Quadrants:

- clear center with concept
- like orchard idea to place the site
- like weep lots of people to engage with concept (?)
- like unifying these and incorporating farm then
- an adult space
- more accessible
- like amphitheater location (many stars)
- need seating for elderly along…
- I like the central core with buildings
- This space is perfect for youth engagement
- Why plots when training plots available in FT already
- Like the Educational/training focus
- How would the plots be divided/awarded?
- I love the large presence of the farm. However, is it too disjointed in this plan as to waste farmland?
- Most inclusive option
- Like the main park orientation
- Native grasses on sledding hill year-round

SE Quadrant:

- Prefer pond and amphitheater
- Especially like amphitheater in this location (many stars)
- Good separation of demo gardens with fruit trees
- Prefer pond to amphitheater (one star)
- Concern that amphitheater will not be utilized
- Good location (pond)
- Move access point in for more access to space in production
- Concern of what will be put into the pond (invasive species)

NE Quadrant:

- I love terraces
- Terraces are my favorite use of this space
- Add the playscape to this
- Add natural playscape to this design
- Use lumber from trees that you get rid of during the destruction of existing trees
- Plant natives

- Add the slide

Farm Nucleus:

- Central location of main buildings
- Water catchment off of buildings and tunnels
- This design would be good for engaging many groups/people/organizations
- LOVE hub and spokes design
- Public drop off for compost?
- Excited about composting
- More together – older adults – walking together – benches/sitting areas/aesthetic
- Like southern exposure
- Bldg. placement more accessible for aging people
- Year-round greenhouse
- Quiet reflection spaces
- Combine C+A?
- There is potential meeting space, commercial kitchen space across Minnehaha in the mall. I oppose more building or unnecessary paving of roads parking lots + building foundations.
- Combine C+A!
- Orientation of buildings East/West for solar collection
- @ Minnehaha – crosswalk absolutely!
- Natural area = crime friendly, nervous about this

Ag-Park Precedent Images:

- LOVE terraced plantings (many stars)
- Love the children's garden
- Children's garden-
    - Children can touch garden, taste garden, watering station to water plants, farm field
- Windmill Icon- useful wind turbine instead of just for looks- actual functioning
- Edible plantings: Edible flower borders all around park, berries on border plants
- LOVE the ideas : children gardens, farm play, terraced planting
- LOVE x3 Farm Play
- Love orchards defining spaces
- Fruit orchard- apple trees
- Apiary (many stars) love this but would also need more natural plantings/native plants for bee food
- Love natural honey- good for diets and homemade medicine
- Love demonstration garden
- Food production garden – secured facility for high-end veggies and plants

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Option B : Intensive Production Farm : Active Play/Parkland

- What is the revenue estimated? What crops will be planted? Will heavy equipment be used for tilling, plowing, etc? Is there a business model that goes with this design? What organization will operate the production farm? How will the land be zoned that is production farmland?
- Compost? Possible revenue generation?
- Too many roads/paths
- Keep open view to Minnehaha
- Off season activity idea: winter walks like the Luminary Loppit
- Public's experience with the farm seems limited- not much flexibility for programming
- Beautiful berries border edible crops for public harvest
- Farm stand needs to be visible @ Minnehaha and/or Victoria- current location is not visible, hard to carry veggies from
- This option doesn't seem as inviting for community involvement
- Bees should be a part of any high production plan
- Is there a dual purpose for educational opportunities if there is a café
- Industrial kitchen could be used for education/food prep/café on different days
- It seems like it will be extremely challenging to incorporate production into public space and seems to miss the point.
- My least favorite- too much hardscape- too focused on production
- Will there be designated bike lanes+ parking?
- Where is processing and storage?
- Although this is my least favorite design, I feel the café and the high tunnels are good ideas
- Least favorite – I second
- Too much parking/roads
- My least favorite design option
- This option seems to put profit over people. Is that accurate for a public park?
- Most consumer, lease community oriented- I prefer community
- Bringing cultural back to community
- Vegetable production will not financially sustain park or programming- even Growing Power is heavily dependent on grants (1 star)
- Although not drawn to high production scheme- like more high tunnels to bring more programming activity for winter months
- Subsidized produce for residents
- Ally crops, inter-planting, poly-culture crops in.
- Intensive farm idea is a new unique idea, I love it as a part of this community park.
- Would rather see park elements meld with farm

SW Quadrant

- How easy would it be for high-tunnels to be slashed/vandalized?
- Make high tunnels on movable tracks
- Need a year-round green house
- Need access at Milton Street (x2)

- Many stars on high tunnels

NW Quadrant

- Like this amphitheater location (1 star)
- Would like to see an amphitheater
- Like natural woodland crops

NE Quadrant

- Do not like the idea of more roads/parking lot (1 star)
- Love the farm to table idea combined with intensive production farm
- MANY stars on the restaurant/café
- Like other options for this space (ADA path)
- Love café (many stars)
- Move buildings closer together
- Do not like parking lot
- Restaurant is a big risk
- Multiple uses for café space – value added- meeting space
- Keep restaurant affordable to residents
- Like café, but move to center- shared parking
- I too like the hardscape, but especially if the hardscape and parking is condensable
- Is there room for educational fields in this scheme?
- How would youth engage in farming here?

SE Quadrant

- Orchard trees should line pathways for high production
- Need basketball and playground
- Sledding hill YES
- Indoor play area for winter
- Don't like all of the metal play equipment
- Don't want to put much focus on playgrounds because there is West Minnehaha as well as Ryan Park

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OPTION C : Farm Center Natural Area Parkland

- Too much hiding places for crime
- Not confident with safety re: opt C
- Too grid-like over-all
- Embankment slide – very cool
- How will the pond be supplied with water?
- Less production space for starters- especially makes sense to me

- Shortest road is best- less parking
- Check out Holt Farm in Eagan
- Love- makes me think of Marydale Park
- Love this concept
- Nice amendment to less natural rec center in neighborhood
- It seems like a very good use of land
- Love the infusion of Ag and natural area
- Café and farm-stand be at Mall (2 stars)
- Love design- need café! (2 stars)
- Organic gardening (1 star)
- Pumpkin patch
- Composting
- How would youth engage in farming in this model?

SW Quadrant

- How large are high tunnels?
- Turn one of the high tunnels into a year-round greenhouse
- Native plants- apiary pollinators
- Double use of fields in winter?
- Production fields are disjointed- I think the design where they are font/center is more unique/better use of space
- Move farm-stand
- Love farm stand idea for selling produce
- Farm stand located away from primary foot traffic
- Farm stand is too far away
- Like farm stand- change location

NW Quadrant

- Like disguising street entrance with trees
- Like the natural grass
- More bus stops close by
- Definitely need crosswalk- bridge?

NE Quadrant

- Water catchment swales- berms- run-off?
- Centris (?) access buffer from Ag and park?
- Natural woodland protects- mushrooms ginseng
- Livestock? Goats?
- Great adventure playground!
- LOVE embankment slide
- My favorite part is the embankment slide

- Like how the ADA path 'crosses paths' with children's play area – if implemented, should have more 'quiet' ADA access as well
- Obstacle course?
- Playground similar to Como play area
- Like more natural playground (1 star)
- My favorite option- supporting native wildlife is good for food production (bees)
- No more playgrounds- we have at Minnehaha
- Rain-gardens? Observation tower?
- More natural play space?
- Switch outdoor classroom/performance space and pond locations
- Love combination of exposure to nature, play, practical fitness, and imagination
- Managed woodland?
- Farm-stand on Minnehaha
- Art centers – music theater
- I like the performance space, another way to draw people to the space (I think I like café idea better though)

SE Quadrant

- Skating Rink (1 star)
- Like planting on sledding hill
- Meadow grass natural area (many stars)
- Embankment slide (many stars)
- Natural based play area (many stars)
- Pond – NO – safety, especially with children
- Pond in winter- ice skating
- Many stars on pond
- Pond- too dangerous?
- The pond is a horrible idea!
- Rain garden (1 star, and checkmark)
- Big enough for skating rink? (1 star)
- Amphitheatre/picnic/overlook instead
- Love skating in winter
- Picnicking/amphitheater
- Like small scale pond

Farm Nucleus

- Enclosed buildings- community (1 star)
- Farm House : 2 levels above ground, 1 level below ground : level 1 : office, gift shop classroom. Level 2 : café, solar powered glass, roofing. Level 3: aquaponic growing.
- Minimal roads- no parking
- More barns

- Commercial kitchen
- Build more barns- bring natural look
- Love this meeting gathering area (many stars)
- Plant edible plants with labels along trail.

C : Natural : Precedent Images

- Love idea of farm with natural buffers (2 stars)
- Love play area built into hillside (many stars)
- Love the slides but also like the terraced farm levels
- Play area built into the hillside- water feature for the summertime (1 star)
- Embankment slide – love (many stars)
- Embankment slide is a must- hillside play area climbing (1 star)
- Scattered picnic tables (2 stars) want covered picnic areas
- Love mesic prairie, love native plantings under oak trees

PHASING PLAN

- Is there any way to get it less work to get it going? Such as designs?
- Compost- help build soil on site
- I love how the trees are growing
- Controlled burning on prairie
- Sources : organic vs. conventional
- Nursery year 1 : soil b. crops asap
- I don't want just a bunch of bulldozers for years- year 1 and year 2
- Compost tea, vermaculture, fish emulsion, other nutrient additions you can produce
- Why does this take so long? Surely planting trees could happen in the first year
- The composting environmental fund should be tapped for composting
- How to do year 1-3 in one year?
- I love the café idea as a way to bring people into the space- is it feasible with zoning/licensing rules?
- Do people need a good place for compostables in the winter? Would the farm make use of them?
- Is ADA path doable?
- Who is overseeing efforts to keep things local (in all areas)?
- Building/making compost – using local business/restaurant waste
- Pet prohibitive
- A good way to grow soil is by growing low nutrient demanding food – entire site under light production in year two
- Could this be a site where neighbors bring yard and food waste to build compost?
- How is the trail gonna work?
- Food waste compost site

- Area for locals to sell homemade natural products
- Space for artists to incorporate art with nature
- Blessing the land – community event before any work is done (LOTS OF STARS)
- We use fish oil at youth farm
- Green energy
- Compost program should dovetail with city's plan to do curbside compost pick-up- work with Eureka recycling on this?
- Why not plant cover crops in year one?
- DO THE DEEP RIP
- Soil quicker neighborhood
- Work with Ramsey County commissioners to get free compost
- Is blood/bone meal ok to use? What about no pork considerations?
- In Phase 1 please I want to see community/youth involvement with flowers planted on Minnehaha and Victoria Entrance
- In Early Yields- let our community have beauty/pride today- in the process
- Cover cropping- rotation beginning in year 1
- How can community and residents be involved in begging yield-> stage?
- Let's plan community check-in days as the park/farm progresses (1 star)
- Are these 4 phases across the board? The same for the 3 different design options? Which is faster? Which is more $?
- Does Frogtown Farms have all the funding secured for the entire design, a little for each phase, or just now? What's the financial sustainably?
- Phase 2 neighborhood- playground café first
- Community Center in year 2
- Which design will take fewer years? My preference is not 4 years
- Move some year 2 building to year 1
- Community has been working since 2009 on this, it would be good to see development take place quicker than shown here.
- Amphitheatre/gathering space to start educational programming (ie: related to soil building)
- Emphasizing soil building as programmatic- not just an end to a means
- There's nothing for community access in the 1st year
- Grow compost/ sudan grass sorghum
- Who will do the work? (one star)
- How will the community be engaged in the work?

FROGTOWN FARM ARCHITECTURE

- Bathrooms: always needed
- Learning kitchen = great
- Recycled materials

- Need a larger kitchen! (one star)
- We need kitchen space!
- Farm interns?
- Add a couple of smaller meeting rooms
- Is anyone making a document about this project/process?
- Open to public/warming space in winter (1 star)
- Zoning off the farm area is critical! If the farm area is not zoned as parkland it could later be sold for development housing or even commercial use.
- Consider a basement/upper level for community space
- We need meeting space!
- Needed meeting
- How will meeting space be managed for neighborhood use?
- How much would buildings cost?
- North House Folk School in Grand Marais could help with community barn building
- 3 story- 1, 2 glass/café, 3 OK House
- Farm House 3 levels : level 1 main floor, gift shop, classroom, office. Level 2 : Glass, green house with café/rental space /community space. Level 3 : basement – storage, aquaponic- mushroom growing.
- Is the City of St. Paul committed to all of these designs, assuming one or another is installed?
- Can these spaces be integrated into one structure?
- Tool-lending library (1 star)
- LOVE learning spaces built into all structures!
- LOVE the building designs and uses… as long as they are open to the public : accessible, affordable, culturally inclusive
- Community services for youth (a component)
- Explore use of multiple levels in building to maximize
- Love reusing/rebuilding barns and or materials
- Open and airy
- Pursue LEED certification?
- Great. Artistic.

MATERIAL PALLETTE:

- Benches seating :
    - Love natural (x4) + many stars
    - Want combination natural/artistic
    - Artist residency to make benches for park/farm
    - Local artists to design benches
    - Best idea is the artful idea- not necessarily the white bench though
- Bike Rack
    - FSC certified wood
    - Very important
    - Blend art for daily function or use

    - Sculptures
- Picnic Table
    - Love natural
    - Love artful
- Trash Receptacle
    - Renewable energy
    - Yes to composting!
    - Artful is the best
    - Artful should depict the cultural arts
- Trails
    - XC Skiiing trails
    - Many stars on natural and artful trail images

PROGRAM CONCEPTS

- How many staff at each option?
- Start with the smallest staff viable
- Consider stipends for some of the 'volunteer' positions
- These are all three possible and interesting models, but doesn't it get the process backward? In other words, doesn't the organization that leases the land make this decision of how much of the production revenue will have to be paid to the city for a lease? Will the lease be no-cost? Will there be an RFP?
- Love that we are being asked about this!
- What is CSA?
- Can this be 1 COOP?
- Wages for staff? Because it's non-profit or what-not?
- What is the tax status of these models? 501c3? LLC? For Profit?
- Is there a plan for a farmer's market?
- These three concepts all presume production as the highest value- what happened to demonstration and education? 'Farm Hub' is the closest to this idea.

- **Frogtown Enterprise COOP**
    - Doesn't serve average community member until later?
    - Our local food coops are members?
    - Design works the best structure
    - Evergreen COOP, Cleveland OH
    - Paid membership?
    - This seems like it would attract outsiders and take away from the community
    - COOP model needs a mgmt strategy- perhaps include the specialty farm facilities manager diagram?
    - Who RUNS the farm?

- Seems like this is lots of work
- What qualifies for coop membership?
- Let's support the Bee ecosystem without taking honey than more bees (?)
- Member fees?
- This seems cool but a 'muddy' idea
- Community nursery?
- Who makes decisions?
- How would youth engage in these programs?
- COOP membership will fluctuate = problematic
- Can you make a profit and keep it? Incubator? Hatch?
- Start later, after B+C
- Board needs to be an operational on hands board- committees/consultants
- Coop is the best design as consultant best design structure
- Incorporate café and training program – more money?
- COOP members are board members?
- What kind of legal structure?
- Children excluded?
- How does this feed the community?
- Could the COOP model be used with the Farm Hub model to bring neighborhood groups together in an equitable manner?
- Stars on : UMN, Economic Development, Hmong Farms, Social Justice, Arts, Paper-making, Food processers, Bee Keepers.

- **Frogtown Specialty Farm**
  - Same #s of staff btw models?
  - Youth education? Community involvement?
  - Need working capital to start
  - Start with 1 crop, add more!
  - I like year-round growing, but not micro-managing
  - COOP run more community / youth education
  - Too staff heavy
  - Community bakery oven- ditto
  - How does this fit into the context of public land?
  - Hmong medicinal herbs for hospitals – farm -> hospital
  - Would be cool if there were public outlets- school (?)
  - Café leased or owned?
  - Café warming house for sledding
  - Youth education, community involvement
  - Not interested in exotic specialty crops as a focus
  - Consider a new farmers' market
  - Good starting point
  - Lots of existing restaurants- good market
  - Need revenue source

- I want the focus to be demonstration gardens- education
- Profit vs. education
- Phase education when there's profit
- How does this feed the community?
- Too few people doing the farming
- Education and apprentices are a must
- Have a volunteer program
- Is there room in this model for community members to learn better techniques for their own gardens/farms?
- Parking partnership with businesses across Minnehaha Mall – signage/sharing
- I like the idea of transitioning from production to teaching (to start and help fund)
- More economically viable
- Stars on: apprentices and education and many stars on cafe

- **Frogtown Farm HUB**
  - Many stars on Farm Hub
  - Won't duplicate
  - Will produce high community energy
  - The neighborhood has a wealth of assets!
  - This seems like the best option to achieve education goals
  - More economically viable
  - Teach traditional food preparation and preserving methods
  - I want more neighbors farming
  - Kitchen facility for cooking/preserving
  - This one has the smallest staff- best to start with
  - Reach more children
  - Focus on high-value specialty crops
  - Resource Farm Hub
  - How do we blend these ideas to be in good proportions
  - Volunteer managers! Let's make volunteering a priority!
  - How to preserve food
  - I like the focus on teaching and learning
  - Demonstrate/facilitate neighborhood skills
  - Yes! To bringing healthy food back!! Teaching farm (1 star)
  - Good stuff
  - This is the best program model (HUB) it is inclusive of the community and utilizes current assets/resources
  - Can you invite a CSA from another community
  - 501c3 have some sort of tax-deductable giving option
  - Stars on: Urban farm lab, Education programs, Backyards to business program, community groups and residents.