



## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

400 City Hall Annex  
25 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102  
[www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks)

Telephone: 651-266-6400  
Facsimile: 651-292-7311

Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan  
Open House, January 20, 2011

### Comments

### Indian Mounds Regional Park Comments

#### Overall Concept Board Comments:

##### *Signage/ History:*

- Incorporate the Dakota language into signage whenever possible
- Please respect the Great Dakota Nation mound of remains. Plaque posted to note spot not just an empty spot.
- The Indian Mounds are really down-played. I would really like to see more Indian and historical influence in plans, architecture building style and plant choice

##### *Traffic Calming:*

- Bumpouts – 1 red dot

##### *General Comments:*

- Consider assessing early childhood education and childcare facilities within walking distance to determine their needs and preferences with regards to free & nature play areas. Thanks! – I support this.
- Community garden space would be nice. Access to fresh, healthful food for this area is lacking, but important.

#### Focus Area 1 Comments:

##### *Gateway Garden:*

- How about a community vegetable garden/flower garden here?
- Sure would love some community garden space
- Coffee shop with small play area. Great for community gatherings (referring to Gateway garden area)
- Lovely! A garden at the park entrance near the freeway would be so nice.
- Make gateway garden a community garden and move gateway garden to dog park. Dog park move to Short Street area.
- Yes- some sort of gateway
- 3 green dots

##### *Dog Park:*

- Great! As long as it is enclosed
- No dog park here! Maintenance area would be MUCH better location



CAPRA Accreditation

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer



National Gold Medal Award

- I don't think this is big enough for a dog park, but I like the idea. Have 3 dogs would love to run. Have lots of dogs here.
- Please consider water quality impacts of any dog parks. Thanks!
- Maintenance facility land a much better dog park site. + 1 agree
- Dog park not big enough, too steep to get down & too far away from residential area, will get little use.
- 5 red dots

*Connection to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary:*

- Consider putting kiosk closer to parking area
- Rebuild the old stairway instead of new location
- Stairway connection only if it would be very low impact.
- I think stairway is a great idea, let's connect these great parks!
- Put stairs to Bruce Vento at overlook
- No steps
- Use trail
- 1 red dot

*Traffic Calming:*

- Like raised crosswalks
- Like the street calming plans
- Raised crosswalks good
- Raised crosswalks bad
- Please slow traffic on Mounds Blvd.
- 4 green dots

*Carver's Cave Overlook Area:*

- Clean out the trees to improve view
- Clear trees to enhance overlook. Yes! Yes!
- This is terrific – the planning team has done marvelous work.
- Need secondary playground @ this location. Swing, sandbox.
- Please consider moving existing parking lot off the former Mounds in this area (referring to Plum St. parking lot)
- Please put sign indicating the former Mounds
- Small plaque noted mark Dakota mounds not just dirt. Dakotas are a great nation don't just build over scared spots, honor them.
- Restore viewsheds add seating nodes – 3 green dots
- Restroom: 1 green dot, 1 red dot

*General Comments:*

- No need for a new wall -is there? (referring to wall between Short and Urban Sts)
- Stone wall – 1 green dot

**Focus Area 2 Comments:**

- Wall good – keep repaved(?) (referring to WPA wall)

*Circulation:*

- Like the cross walk idea!
- If this sign is as badly maintained as the one at mounds and thorn , leave it out.
- Raised Intersections with bump-outs, good!

- No paved path needed on this side (along Thorn Street west from Earl)
- New trail with Exercise stations:
- 3 green dots
- 1 red dot

#### *Security/Maintenance*

- Night time park hours. Monitoring of late traffic, no parked cars overnight.
- Security needed. Concerned about night time activities.
- Enforce noise limits and park hours.
- Many water fountains. Many trash cans.

#### *Splash Pad*

- Need second playground area for older kids and teenagers
- Splash pad would be fun
- Will splash pad take too much maintenance
- Splashpad makes a family friendly environment
- Waterpark like this! Yes!
- I like splash pad o lost of kids
- 9 red dots
- 1 green dot

#### *Play Area*

- Good – enlarge
- New playground equipment
- Yes! My son broke his leg there due to the poor design.
- Please put slides and metal equipment in shade. They get very hot.
- We need a bigger “tot” play area separate from kids.
- Playground area too small.
- Need moiré shade for playground area after noon. All areas are hit with direct sun.
- Where is the baseball field? And Top field for Hmong?
- 1 green dot

#### *Picnic Pavilion*

- Love it! (the image of the structure with solar panels)
- 3 green dots

#### *Amphitheater*

- I like the opportunities for amphitheater in the park
- Amphitheater rocks.
- Like this! (photo of amphitheater in Blue Ridge mountains)
- 5 green dots

#### *Tennis Courts Relocated to Mounds – Expand Prairie*

- Don’t relocate, just add two more here plenty of room
- Leave tennis courts
- Nothing to do over on thi s side. Keep tennis courts here.
- Gardens would be excellent here.
- Leave or increase tennis here.
- I enjoy playing tennis here. Would NOT play by maintenance area. Keep the tennis courts

- Give us back a lawn and get rid of the weeds.
- I like the prairie.
- Lose the prairie, it isn't working.
- Expand prairie – 9 red dots, 2 green dots

*Interpretive Center:*

- ? to the interpretive center, but do change ugly concrete handicap ramp.
- Expand interpretive area with emphasis of Native History.
- Earl as convertible street – Great~!
- 1 green dot

*The Mounds:*

- How are you making the mounds more significant to the park and bringing them to the “style” of the park?
- Acknowledge that the mounds are gone (with signs) and please try not build on them in this stretch (between streetcar station and airway beacon)
- With all respect, the mounds are the grave sites of our ancestors, the Dakota people. Think of your own sacred site, eg. Vets memorial cemetery when planning.
- Put prairie grass on the mounds.

*Biofiltration/stormwater picnic area:*

- Like this! (photo of biofiltration)
- Consider interpreting these stormwater features (satellite picnic area)
- Biofiltration sounds like weeds, mud, bugs, ick.
- Keep open. No biofiltration.
- Need restrooms in picnic area. Trim trees to enhance view.
- 2 green dots
- 1 red dot
- Overlook seating area and garden – 1 green dot

*Other uses:*

- Possible ice skating rink?
- Winter use options? Groom for xc ski – low impact to area but year round use of park

**Focus Area 3 Comments:**

*Connections:*

- Connection to Sam Morgan trail at Warner Rd. bridge – 3 green dots
- Natural resource management – 2 green dots

*Nature Trails:*

- I like this! Me, too! (referring to improvements to nature trails)
- Historical information should be put on signs along the way
- Good place for sustainable mountain bike trails ( within area south of Johnson Parkway)
- Historic Fish Hatchery Road trail development – 3 green dots
- Natural surface mountain bike and snow shoe trail
- This is a great idea (referring to nature trails improvements)
- Yes – improve nature trails here!
- 4 green dots

*Fish Hatchery:*

- Yes- buy the land if possible or get state to donate it (referring to acquisition of 17 acre Fish Hatchery property)

*Johnson Parkway Gateway:*

- Benches good (at Johnson Parkway)
- Like traffic calming
- Yes, but signs get vandalized and are not maintained (referring to the kiosk)
- Wayfinding Signage – 1 green dot

*Skate Parks/Disc Golf:*

- Skate parks are good only if they are not by “your” house
- Skate park is good – keeps skaters off walk path
- I think skate parks are positive if properly handled. – Me too!
- Like skate park
- Better location than at the maintenance facility. (referring to skate park)
- Like the idea of skate park and disc golf. Me too!
- In favor of skate park, but this is a bad spot.
- Keep skate park in Mounds Maintenance area – do not site here. +1 agree
- Disc Golf is great! Please consider erosion and tree/shrub damages
- I like the disc golf course – not sure where else we have this.
- Don’t develop the woodsy area – we need places that are not manicured.
- Skate park: 8 red dots, 1 green dot
- Disc Golf – 3 red dots, 5 green dots

**Mounds Maintenance Comments:**

*General Comments:*

- Any thoughts for making part of this 4-season use? We have a lot of winter or perhaps this could be done by the rec centers?
- Like Concept A plan better – more open
- Like intense (active) use being concentrated here – leaving Indian Mounds for less active, more passive, recreational activity. Like unstructural [sic] activity.
- Connect alley (Suburban Ave.) to parking area, consider a safety exit
- Could building turned into gym w/ basketball, etc. or volleyball courts
- Off road BMX bike track with hills and curves
- Consider assessing early childhood and childcare facilities within walking distance to determine their needs, preferences for outdoor play, nature-play areas
- Natural barriers to neighbors seems nice (Concept B)
- Water fountains and bike lock structures in various places

*Play Area:*

- Update the playground

*Dog Park:*

- Like Dog park
- No, we don’t need another East side Dog Park
- Please consider water quality impacts of dog run/park areas. Thanks!
- Like the opportunity for dogs
- Will dog park push never end?

*Tennis Courts:*

- Keep, but improve tennis courts

- No need. Add 2 courts to Mounds Blvd.
- Soccer field or kickball field (instead of tennis courts)
- Tennis courts aren't needed, unless they are programmed for use
- To be useful tennis courts need to be maintained
- Not here (referring to the tennis courts)
- Sand volleyball instead (of tennis courts)

*Skate Park:*

- Don't like skate park here, by 61 is better idea
- I think a skate park could work but need to be more out in the open
- Good, this plan addresses a need for "skate park", teen-ager, activities and parking H.W.
- Good.

*Community Gardens:*

- Good, but enlarge
- Community garden is a great idea. Make it bigger or leave room to expand it.
- Yes, yes, yes to gardens!
- Like the comm. Gardens
- Community Gardens – Good.
- Like the opportunity for community gardens and to include children
- Garden good – make bigger
- Like the gardens!

**Comment Cards:**

1. We propose that mountain biking be included in the master plan as a possible future use. MORC (MN Off-Road Cyclists) has a 10+ year history of partnering with land managers (Battle Creek, Lebanon Hills, Burnsville, Bloomington, Minneapolis, Three Rivers, and Woodbury Parks to design, build, and maintain sustainable mountain bike trails. We have good success in the grant process for funding, and a large, active volunteer base that does most of the maintenance on MORC trails. I'd welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. Don Youngdahl, 651-633- 2029, dony@visi.com.

P.S. MORC has approximately 800-900 members, which I estimate is perhaps 10-15% of active mountain bikers in the metro area.

2. Don't forget to plant trees around the industry by the river (chem plant, treatment center, etc.) View was and could be spectacular! Steve Law

3. I live across Thorn Street from ... I love the idea of an amphitheater if it's used for education as well as music. I worry about the expanded picnic building if it means more very loud stereos playing all summer. Just enforce noise rules and it'll be fine. Please build the splash pad and Frisbee golf course...let's make this park active. Making Earl a place for festivals and events is a great idea too. Please keep us up to date on the plans. Jeff Jones, 651-274-8313, jeff1863@aol.com.

4. We understand living next to a small airport will include some noise. The helicopter training (which circles our house for hours) is unacceptable - what can we do to move this training to another location? Seems unnecessary to have in densely populated, residential area. Melanie Buetow, 651-793-5934.

5. When we were young I remember praying at these mounds. My relative is Ames Owen from Prairie Island. We also prayed at Fort Snelling with the governor? at the time. MN was named after the Dakotas of this land so let's remind ourselves of that allegiance and respect the founders of the state of the MN borders. Lylis Siegel, 651-764-0848, side\_step05@yahoo.com, Prairie Island Indian Community, Organizer of the Dakota Women's Society.
6. It would be nice to "re-mark" mounds if it was a old cemetery they would remark individual plots they were people at one time before settlements it could of been a good person chief of honor its not just a dirt spot. Respect old mounds, Dakota's are great people. Loren Siegel, Lakota/Dakota, 651-764-0848.
7. Please feel free to notify me if committee would need help with organizing Dakota Reps. Lylis Siegel, 651-764-0848.  
RE: Information gathered for the interpretive peace in place at the Pavilion (or) (and) removing? All building upon the mounds.
8. -Is the committee considering other surveys other than 1862?  
-What building can be used for the Dakota committee use for prayer and feasts? I see the DNR Building at Warner Road.  
-This is a very important decision based on the United States is very new in comparison to the Historical timeline of the mounds.  
-Committee will be responsible of the future use of the lands. Around the mounds itself I would advise "no buildings." I would have to go with the feeling of my uncle Amos Owens, Prairie Island Indian Community, that we respect our ancestors for future standard that remain unchanged that we honor our family that passed.  
-The renovation of the interpretive center: will the committee consider advisement from the Dakota Community Representatives from the different tribes. I'm sure can meet with the committee. At tonight's event all Dakota communities have been represented. Very informative maps and information. Lylis Siegel, 651-764-0848, side\_step05@yahoo.com, Prairie Island Indian Community. Thank you for your time and attention to this meeting.  
Lylis
9. Connectivity between mounds and neighborhoods to the North and on to Phalen. Let's connect all the surrounding areas for a feeling of prosperity and inclusion for all. ♥ dog park, skate park, skating-outdoors, coffee shop(!) Like DC mall, springy sidewalk area for seniors and maybe little bike trail.
10. I would like to have some more winter facilities in the park, like cross country trails or ice skating... I would also like opportunities for public art.
11. We should keep mounds Park as natural as possible. History, interpretive trails would be valuable. Recreational - skate parks, basketball, etc. might be OK but should be well away from natural areas. Indian history would be interesting.
12. Please consider giving the Indian land back! I am not Indian, but I really appreciate their loss, sacrifice, and contribution and believe they have the deepest commitment to the core and history of this space.
13. What is being done about the drug dealing in the west parking lot near the freeway?  
geralyn716@yahoo.com.

14. I am very opposed to any expansion of the so called - native grass area - this is nothing but a giant Weed Patch, an eyesore to the neighborhood and a haven for varmets. Because of these plants we have more work maintaining our yards. We lost a real asset to the neighborhood when this was foisted on us. Larry Meuwisser?, [judgelarry@comcast.net](mailto:judgelarry@comcast.net)

Post-it stuck to #14 -

I like:

Park benches painted

snow shoveled walkways in Park-between Mounds and Thorn

pavilion fixed up

Next Task Force Meeting will be Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Cerenity Care Center 6:30 -8:30 p.m.

We will compile all comments from the Open House for discussion in order to make a final recommendation on a proposed Master Plan.