



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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**Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan
Task Force Meeting #1 Notes - DRAFT
August 5, 2010**

Staff Present:

Kathleen Anglo, Project Manager, Parks & Recreation Design
Ellen Stewart, Parks & Recreation Design
Karin Misiewicz, Parks & Recreation Operations
Meghan Manhatton, Parks & Recreation Environmental Services
Jody Martinez, Manager, Parks & Recreation Design

Task Force Members Present:

Julie Gugin, Task Force Chair	Anne Kolar
Stephanie Harr	Colleen Ashton
Brian Miller	Jane Russo
Sue Richter	Marjorie Pitz
Wally Waranka	John Anfinson, National Pk Serv.
Irene Jones	Steve Trimble, Resident Historian
Tom Ross and William Jones, Indian Affairs Council	Ned Brooks

Task Force Members Absent:

Jacob Dorer
Candy Petersen
N. Scott Larsen

Walking Tour (*comments from task force during tour are in italics*)

Picnic Area and Playground

Shelters installed in the late 1960s. Design “modern” hyperbolic paraboloid (first one installed in Phalen Park), booked most weekends spring-fall
Play Area, last renovated in 1988.
Playfield (used for volleyball, tujlub (pronounced too-loo), katow, softball)

Picnic Area south of Mounds Blvd.

Road to Fish Hatchery built in 1903.
WPA wall
Municipal Forest: 22.5 acres given to the city from the State. First plans included arboretum like plantings in botanical order.
Matron’s Grove (Order of the Eastern Star)



Natural resource management

Perched wetland

Fire Rings (removed)

Ski jump (1924-1970s)

Toboggan Run (1940s)

- *There is a feeling that the people in the City make decisions without regard for the history of the park and without engaging the community or the users of the park in planning.*
- *Removal of WPA fire rings - if we can't get them back, we need to make sure other remnants of WPA work remains like the curving wall on Mounds Boulevard.*
- *Since there aren't fire rings any longer, can we remove the bollards along the picnic area that were installed to keep people from bringing in things to burn/dump?*
- *Removal of brick swales also occurred without engaging community in the decisions.*
- *Historically there were springs with a formal ornamental catchment that then went into the fish hatchery.*

Pavilion

Built in 1917 as a refreshment stand, concert pavilion and comfort station. Restrooms were located in the basement.

Stair to railroad yards and Burlington Hotel

- *Overlook from the Great River Road project. Chilton walls are being deconstructed and stones are being thrown over the bluff. Graffiti has been an issue.*

Indian Mounds

Of the original 18 mounds in this group, only 6 remain.

Mounds weren't fenced until the 1980s.

Many roads and trails have criss-crossed the area around the mounds over the years.

Another group of 19 mounds were located in the area of the Carver's Cave Overlook and parking lot along Dayton's Bluff, none remain.

- *Significance of the mounds in the park is that it recalls a history that precedes Minnesota or even the United States.*
- *They are memorials that "we don't come to enough".*
- *Why did they bury people that way? Why did they choose that land as sacred space?*
- *The area is important because it tells a story about how people remember.*
- *Should the plaque by the mounds be re-written eventually?*

Airway Beacon

Erected in 1929 when Holman Field was built, the beacons defined the airway corridor between Chicago and St. Paul.

Native grass areas.

Carver's Cave Overlook (improvements done in 1996)

- *Is the Airway Beacon on the Historic Register?*
- *When was the prairie planted? Same time that Mounds St. was closed between Mounds Blvd. and Thorn St.*

Sculpture

Sacred Bowl – Duane Goodwin, 2006.

'The Wave' – Javier Del Cueto, 2006. Both done as part of the MN Rocks! Event

- *Real name of The Wave sculpture is 'Usumacinta River Visits the Mississippi'*
- *Where did the sign go that had the elevation on it? Operations is looking into it.*
- *Need signage in the park.*
- *There used to be another sign at Earl and Thorn which is no longer there due to repeated graffiti.*

Mounds Maintenance Facility

Land acquired in 1967

Building installed and site improvements done in 1973

The building was repurposed as a maintenance facility in 1988.

Business Meeting:

Welcome and introductions

Overview of the Task Force Purpose, Indian Mounds Master Plan planning project, City's Vision, Met Council Master Plan process.

Overview of Task Force meeting schedule and topics

- *Can there be a formal presentation at a District Council meeting? Perhaps they could sponsor one of the public open houses?*
- *What is a Regional Park? [Metropolitan Council Regional Parks Fact Sheet](#)*
- *If there is a Natural Resources plan for the park, is there a Public Works plan as well? Another RSVP project won't be scheduled for this neighborhood for another 20-30 years.*
- *Is there enough time for input? Please send any comments or concerns to Kathleen. At the second meeting we will analyze existing conditions and identify other influencing projects. We will also take input on likes, dislikes, wants, and needs to develop the program and goals and objectives. We can reassess the need for an additional "Brainstorming session" after the second meeting.*
- *Can we have alternates? Hopefully everyone should be able to make it to the meetings, so alternates aren't necessary, unless you are staff representing a particular agency. If you are unable to make a meeting, let Kathleen know and we will get you information regarding the meeting.*
- *Mark calendars for the Third Thursday of the month for our meeting schedule.*

Meeting presentations, agendas, notes and other resources will be available on the project website. [Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan](#)

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation [Vision Plan](#)

Next meeting will be September 16, 2010 at 6:30 pm at Cerenity Senior Care.

The agenda will include Site Inventory and Analysis, identification of opportunities and constraints. Input of likes, dislikes, needs and wants to set program.