



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: 651-292-7405

March 3, 2011

**Lilydale Regional Park Design Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes – March 1, 2011  
Wellstone Center Room 212**

**Meeting Attendees**

**City Staff:** Jody Martinez, Anne Hunt, Don Ganje, Ellen Stewart, Eriks Ludins

**Consultant Design Team:** Michael Schroeder, CJ Fernandez, Jack Becker

**Advisory Task Force Members:** Bob Spaulding, Grit Youngquist, Richard Arey, Gjerry Berquist, Monica Bryand, Jan Carr, Kathy Farnell, Jon Kerr, Jim Olsen, Susan Overson, Gregory Page, Jodie Phrohaska, Kathy Stack, Peggy Lynch

**1. Welcome**

**2. Scope of the project** includes the design of the roadway, shelter & restroom design, gathering area site design, gateway design and site design. The final design will take into consideration the input from this task force as well as comments gathered during the Open House in addition to many other factors including: Lilydale Master Plan Amendment; the Department of Parks and Recreation Mission, System Plan and Vision Plan, Policies and regulations relating to health, safety and welfare including MNDOT and CPTED rules and guidelines; maintenance and operations; fiscal realities, environmental education and interpretive programming. All of this input will run through the filter of protecting, preserving and enhancing Lilydale Regional Park while educating users about the unique features of the park thereby fostering stewardship of the park and the overall environment.

- A. Concern was expressed by some members of the group about the scope and the absence of the trail design within the work that is being done currently.
- B. City staff explained that the while it would be great to be able to construct all of the proposed amenities for the park that are in the Master Plan, the cost on that work is around \$15 million. We need to phase the work and the priorities for the first part are to get in the major infrastructure. The roadway construction will include the provision of major utilities that are necessary for the park. While LHB is not doing trail design to the point of construction documents, they are considering the trail as it intersects and works with the roadway alignment through the park. LHB will be designing trail features related to the Pickerel Clearing area as they will be integral to the design and function of that area.

**3. The schedule of the remaining Advisory Task Force meetings**

- A. Open House (sometime in the next month, TBA)
- B. Follow up meeting to present the information gathered at the Open House and present the direction that the design team will be taking. After that meeting, LHB will be working toward getting construction documents completed.

- C. One additional meeting with the Advisory Task Force to discuss “other issues” outside of the scope of the consultant. Specifically, the group has stated a desire to indicate a preference for prioritization of the other Master Plan elements.

#### **4. Updates**

- A. Road turn back update in process – Draft agreement from Dakota County. Pool and yacht club would like to be a part of St. Paul so Lilydale and Mendota Heights have to agree. Ramsey County agreement is drafted.
- B. Environmental cleanup work – will be completed this week to the extent possible with the current funding. The contractor will record where they have started, stopped and provide the information necessary for the construction documents for the roadway to pick that up.

#### **5. Consensus on design direction and products for Open House was the goal for the meeting**

#### **6. Presentation by LHB**

##### **A. Gateway and Bridge designs**

- i. Three areas were shown as possible locations for the park entrance/gateway. The location of the gateway will determine the size and scale of the gateway.
- ii. Bridge designs shown varied in profile and character. The structure is somewhat dependent on the span that will be required as the road crosses the wetland near the entrance to the park, whether penetrations of the wetland would be allowed or desirable, and the degree to which the bridge is considered a feature or a background visual element.

##### **B. Shelters and gathering area**

- i. Site design incorporates more organic form than previous “clearing” which was a more formal circular shape surrounded by paths. The layout will depend on the type of structures and number of structures, but the main building will be sited to face the lake with views unimpeded by the utility structures in the lake.
- ii. Three different shelter concepts were shown.
  - The first is a more traditional in form which references the Twin Cities Brick structures of historic Lilydale. The materials for this were brick, wood and a tile roof. A larger shelter, smaller shelter and restroom/storage facility were presented. The height of the shelter is approximately 18’. In the option with a fireplace, the chimney height reaches 26’. The base dimensions of the large structure are 22’ x 36’. The small structures including the restroom/storage facility would be 22’x22’.
  - The second concept shown was a heavy, grounded structure composed of materials which are found in the surrounding bluffs. The roof height is at 18’ at the peak, and the piers incorporate informal seating and an open layout with a fireplace tucked into the corner.
  - The third concept is designed of a mix of natural and industrial materials with a green roof. The design cues were taken from the industrial past of the park and reference the bridges, barges and the flatness of the floodplain. The roof is designed with a deeper than usual bed for the green roof to help plants become well established and able to thrive in the presence of invasive species. Height of the roof is at approximately 14’ at the top

- C. Roadway - The roadway design is being tweaked, but has not changed considerably.

- D. Program - the number of parking spaces has been reduced from the program shown at the January meeting. The design team and city staff worked to revise the numbers from the master plan to reflect overlapping uses and to implement a phasing plan in the construction of parking facilities. The number of parking spaces per acre is actually very low compared to the sampling of similar parks both in the region and in other states.

## 7. Comments

- Task force comments/questions during the meeting are in italics and underlined.
- *Written comments collected after the meetings are italicized.*
- Staff and Consultant input is not italicized.

### A. Gateway Comments –

- Will the gateway elements be designed with similar style and elements as the shelter?
- The gateway elements shown were done prior to the design of this set of shelter concepts. The direction chosen for the shelter style and materials will inform the design of the gateway and signage.
- Gateway natural and industrial materials may be too much
- Arc form in the gateway looks like an amusement park
- I like the steel arch on Gateway Sign – Reprises arches in dominant high bridge*

### B. Bridge Comments-

- I like the idea of the wood bridge and not trying to re-create the historic bridge it would run next to
- I really like the 1<sup>st</sup> bridge*
- Love the rustic wood cor-ten bridges*

### C. Shelter Comments-

- How many buildings are we going to have?
- Do we need 4 buildings? What happens if we do 3 buildings? How much parking is reduced? Can't the 4<sup>th</sup> building be a future features if it proves the need?*
- I only want one shelter for 6 picnic tables. One building with restrooms and storage*
- I hope as we continue discussion of the buildings we also consider all of their potential uses - including at night and weekends.*
- The plan is to have at least one shelter large enough to accommodate the intended uses, and a restroom/storage facility. (2 buildings) There had been previous discussion among the task force about a preference for more smaller structures rather one large structure. The structures could be planned, but phased. However the first phase would include the structure intended to accommodate 6 tables (roughly 45-50 kids or about 36 adults) and the restroom/storage facility. The 6 table structure is being illustrated along with what would be a complimentary enclosed building and a smaller open air shelter so that there is an understanding of the way the design translates to various scales and program.
- The building scale is too large.
- I don't think the shelter is too big. Perfect in my opinion.*
- Susan Overson from the National Park Service stated that the structure was absolutely not too large for a Regional Park with the amenities that Lilydale has.
- For the Open House, I hope that Susan Overson's earlier comment will be part of the presentation – tying the types of structure to place/placement.*
- We have arrived at the current size by discussing the Environmental Education coordinator's program, and talking to other educators who will be using the park as part of their curriculum. The previous designs shown at the last meetings were

- larger than the ones being shown as a result of the Task Force's concerns about the footprint. The height of the building has also been reduced significantly in these three concepts. The City feels that the size of shelter currently being depicted in the renderings cannot be scaled down any more and still remain comfortable for the types of groups that want to use and learn about the park and its unique amenities
- xi. Why are we letting the City's environmental education program dictate the size of the shelter? That is new and was not part of the Master Plan.
  - xii. *I agree strongly with comments made during the meeting by Jon K, Jan C and others that environmental ed/interp needs as now are being defined drive the scale of the larger structure. That wasn't a part of the Master Plan as I recall (Maybe I'm wrong/forgetting) – so to amend it now doesn't seem right. I too would like to continue to scale back the large structure size. Lilydale Park doesn't need to be a school group destination. There are many other ways – historically, currently and can be in the future to encourage smaller scale group use of Lilydale Park for interp/Env ed.*
  - xiii. The Master Plan does not specify an interpretive education shelter, but does include a picnic shelter with public restrooms. The Environmental Education coordinator's position is a new one. The City sought the funding for the position in order to help bring more people into our Regional Parks to learn about the environment thereby creating a new generation of park stewards. As part of the Great River Park planning process, the City has included an emphasis on providing educational and interpretive opportunities and programming within Regional Parks along the river. The main facility for interpretive and environmental education will likely be at Hidden Falls Regional Park with satellite locations at Lilydale and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary because of the complementary features and amenities of each park.
  - xiv. I think that each should be shown in the context of the park so that they are not objects that we are looking at. We need to see how they will feel in the park.
  - xv. *What will the structures look like in the natural setting?*
  - xvi. The consultants will refine the drawings and provide images of the shelter options within the context so that the input gathered at the Open House is about the whole concept rather than just the shelter as an object.
  - xvii. *I really appreciate the new materials and sense of historical sensitivity in designs.*
  - xviii. *While I like the piled stone, that roof is too dominant.*
  - xix. *Shelter Option C with green roof is my strong preference*
  - xx. The green roof may still be too high.
  - xxi. The green roof could be a great educational tool.
  - xxii. Will the city have enough money to take care of the green roof? Would it be possible to build that structure without the green roof?
  - xxiii. *Loved the green roof and that building.*
  - xxiv. *I'd like some stone incorporated at the bottom of the vertical pieces*
  - xxv. *I have serious concerns about the "living" roof during budget problem times and/or very hot and dry summers*
  - xxvi. *Love the green roof. Wonder what might move in there!*
  - xxvii. *Concerned about the maintenance of the green roof. Maybe eliminate plants on top.*
  - xxviii. Any roof will need maintenance. The green roof can be contracted along with an establishment period of 2-3 years to ensure that it gets off to a good start. It would be possible to have a flat-roofed structure without making it a green roof. The intent was to design the ultimate low profile flat roofed shelter and that included the green roof as a component.
  - xxix. What purpose does the green roof serve if the building does not have heat or air conditioning?

xxx. The purpose is partially educational, and for the enclosed facility, it could keep the building cooler in the summer. The use of plant materials is also aesthetic and symbolic as it recalls the story of the resurrection of nature over the park's history of human settlement and industrial uses. Considering the overall direction of the park, the green roof can be seen as a way of reducing the ecological footprint of the structure.

#### **D. Parking Comments**

- i. Would like to reconsider the size and scale of the shelter to minimize parking.
- ii. We need to think about the nighttime and weekend uses of the facility.
- iii. This is the only park among the list of nature preserves shown on the plan that has a road going through it.
- iv. The combination of the road and the shelter could bring about a dark side to the park.
- v. Plan for 145-147 spaces seems just right to me.

#### **E. Open House Presentation comments**

- i. Show the 10 acre dog park site as presently defined.
- ii. Please show the 8 acre (+/-) dog park site as presently defined. Most previous views do not show how that size fits into the existing space available.
- iii. We can show the Master Plan for context, but the purpose of the open house is to get comments and input on the current scope of work that LHB is involved in which includes the shelter design, site design around the shelter, roadway design, parking and gateway and bridge designs.
- iv. Show all three shelter concepts.
- v. Show enough information at the Open House so that the people who attend are well informed on the scope and background of the project.
- vi. The Open House will be planned to provide ample information and graphics to help illustrate the scope of the project, the options, and ask for the feedback we need to move forward.

#### **F. Misc Comments**

- i. Thanks for doing this incrementally

### **8. Recap of meeting items**

#### **A. Next Steps – Community Open House Meeting**