

Resolution #20-18 Exhibit 2

Approval of Highland Bridge Park Designs Highland Bridge Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) Input PAC Comments and Design Team responses

This summary of PAC comments is broken into four categories and represent an overview of the comments received from the PAC members through meetings and “assignments” through the process. Duplicate comments are not recorded and comments that are simply encouraging are not included in this summary. Full comments are available on the City’s website under the Community Engagement documents for the project.

Amenities and Activities:

- It is important to have balance of activities for group and individual activities.

We agree and have aimed for a balance of active and passive recreation and socialization within the parks and civic spaces. The parks will appeal to different ages, interests and abilities and accommodate varied group sizes.

- It is important that individual parks complement the area adjacent to it.

Consideration of the context of each park within the overall development has helped to determine the design of each including the activities and amenities within the parks. For example, walking paths, game tables and bocce ball along with ample seating and places to watch the skaters are planned for Park A which is near Senior Housing. Pickleball courts are close by in Park B. Stormwater sources on the north end of the development and winds through from a more programmed space to Park C where the design transitions into a more natural feel as the water makes its way toward Hidden Falls Regional Park.

- We would like to have many play options that include sensory friendly play, creative play, and nature play

We have planned a balanced play environment throughout the development with active play, social play, inclusive play, creative play, themed play, and nature play.

- It would be nice to have a seasonal outdoor library space.

Ryan is exploring a seasonal community library space within Outlot D (Central Water Feature). The space will likely be constructed after the initial opening of Outlot D.

- Will the development have public restrooms and fountains in the parks

The parks will have drinking fountains but will not have public restrooms as the cost of public restrooms in parks is not planned within the current budget allocation. Outlot B (Civic Square) and Outlot C (Civic Plaza) are within the Business Mixed District of the Ford Site Zoning and Public Realm Master Plan. Ryan intends to line Outlot B and C with commercial spaces such as retail, restaurants, service, etc. This allows an opportunity for potential publicly accessible restrooms within a private development. This will be further explored as design progresses on

these specific buildings. If public restrooms are unavailable, temporary facilities may be explored.

- Will there be signage and kiosks in the development? There is a need for wayfinding specifically getting to the city's trail system. Wayfinding within the overall development has not been designed yet, but is currently being explored.

Each park will have a sign with the park name and address on it. Kiosks are not planned but interpretive elements will be integrated into the parks. We will consider ways to incorporate wayfinding so that the system is legible.

- Will there be shelters/pavilions in the parks?

We are currently showing a shelter in Park C in the community dog park and another the southern tip of Park C near the volleyball court.

- It would be nice to have some form of water play or splash pad.

The design currently has a water play area in the Park B design. Outlot D (Central Water Feature) has touch points to the pond. Ryan exploring potential canoe/kayak rental and winter ice skating at the pond also. This type of activity requires a to-be-determined third party operator, so the specifics are unknown at this time. Park C has direct access to the newly constructed creek channel and natural pools for a natural water play. There are currently no traditional interactive water features planned within the development.

- I gathered feedback from the neighborhood. Overall, there was enthusiasm for this type of feature. People preferred a ninja type style course. Considerations would be to make it accessible to all ages. Will there be group fitness areas?

We are excited to see how the fitness equipment is enjoyed. Lawn areas are planned throughout the parks and civic spaces. These have been integrated where there are larger flat areas so that they can be used for a variety of activities. They could be used for group fitness, kicking around a soccer ball, playing frisbee, etc.

- It will be good to maintain large open space for flexibility and group activity

We currently have open space in many of the park and civic spaces to accommodate both large and small group gathering for events and recreation.

- Why is there a skate park? Does it need to be close to the parkway?

The skate park was not a highly prioritized activity for the development in our early community outreach, but the City has identified a need for a skate facility to fill a gap in the recreational needs for the overall system. The skate park provides a balance to the user demographic by filling a void for teens and tweens and becomes a destination activity for the Highland community. Skating can be a cooperative experience where kids help and encourage each other. Placement of the skatepark was determined by access and visibility into and from it. It has been designed to minimize conflict between trail users and skaters.

- Can we have both pickleball courts and tennis courts? Possibly have an option to convert them?

Due to the size of pickleball courts vs the size of tennis courts, it is not possible within the amount of space that we do have. There are several neighborhood parks and schools around that do have tennis courts that can be used by the public.

- Is there a need for Parking for the Park spaces?

Generally, the City does not construct parking within neighborhood parks since it takes significant space. We anticipate that many people will walk or ride to the parks. For those driving, on street parking is available on first-come basis throughout the development. An existing parking lot is also available along MRB, south of Park C.

- Can we get a summary of all amenities in the parks?

Please see the attached table of the amenities for the development.

Design:

- Is there a chance to incorporate Ford plant legacy, or Dakota heritage within the parks and natural areas?

We are researching and documenting research about the land including plans for sustainability, past industrial use, Native American experience of the area and environmental and geological history. The component of public art has not yet been fully defined but we anticipate that it will incorporate this work to reflect the richness of the site.

- What type of Interpretive components are in the parks?

Interpretive Plans are being developed for the parks and civic spaces.

- I would like to see the parks that border Ford Parkway and River Road serve as a visual entry point for St. Paul. Including art, signage, that becomes identified with St. Paul.

We are working on the public art plans now. Park A design takes into consideration the views into the site from the west and we will consider the grades, trees, etc. as we look at placement of visual amenities and possibility of landmarks.

- We would like to See Parks A and parts of Park C incorporate public art and sculpture.

The City is currently working on the plan for public art within the overall development and will take your comments into consideration.

- We would like to see areas for people to gather and enjoy the water course – sitting within the natural spaces.

The plans include both formal and casual gathering areas along the stormwater stream. These areas include different kinds of seating including the natural bedrock.

Environmental:

- Will there be wetland preservation, development and native and pollinator landscaping?

The only natural wetland located within the park space or civic space is in Park D. This wetland will be expanded to replace wetland that is impacted by the construction of Finn Street and Montreal Avenue according to State and CRWD requirements. This wetland replacement plan has been previously approved and Ryan intends to complete this scope in sequence with Park D construction.

There will also be large areas of native and pollinator landscape within the Park A, Park C and Out lot D biofiltration basins and to establish larger native planting. Trees and plants suitable to the region and many native cultivars that are common within the state are planned for the overall landscape.

- How will rain event affect the paths and trails in Parks A and C?

Common rain events do not impact the main pathways in Park A or C, however the ravine in Park C will always be full of water and unusable during a normal rain event. During larger rain events parts of the path in park C will become unusable for a short period of time but will return to normal within 72 hours.

- This will be a great opportunity to add to the city's forest canopy and prepare the site for global warming by offering heat mitigation, rainwater absorption, carbon sequestration and connection to nature. Keep non-porous surfaces to a minimum.

The design team agrees and we have been working hard to maximize environmental benefits including the use of trees. Environmental considerations are a priority and there is a balance as we plan the park amenities.

- Can we get an Overview of housing and development that is around the Parks and civic spaces?

Please see the interactive map available at the following for an overview of the development adjacent to the Parks and Outlots (Civic Spaces): <https://highlandbridge.com/explore/>

Operations:

- Who is responsible for maintenance of the parks?

City of Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation for Parks A-D. A Master Association will maintain Outlot B (Civic Square), Outlot C (Civic Plaza) and Outlot D (Central Water Feature). City of Saint Paul Public Works is responsible for maintenance of the stormwater facilities (i.e.

ponds, biofiltration basins, below grade stormwater storage and filtration systems) within each Park and Outlot.

- Will there be park programming and activation by Parks and is there a community group that will be formed to organize and care for and take ownership of the parks?

The Master Association will be responsible for maintenance and programming of the Outlots. The specifics on the programming have yet to be defined.

City of St. Paul will have standard park programming available for all Parks and may vary dependent upon what amenities are in the parks. If a Friends of Highland Bridge group is developed by the community, the City can work with that group, however the City does not organize those.