

# City Parks at Highland Bridge

Open House 5.12.2021

[www.stpaul.gov/highlandbridgeparks](http://www.stpaul.gov/highlandbridgeparks)



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# Acknowledgement

*St. Paul stands on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Dakóta homelands.*

*We acknowledge that through the history of unfair treaties, genocidal policies and forced removal of Indigenous people from their homeland, the U.S. government seized Ojibwe and Dakóta land across Minnesota.*

*As we consider that the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration and settlement that has brought us to current day, we commit to understanding, respecting, supporting and advocating for Indigenous People and for this land.*

*Let this land acknowledgement be more than a reminder. Let it be a marker in time of dedicating ourselves to be better and do better. Through this land acknowledgement, let us lead to make changes which respect history.*



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# Welcome



**Director of Parks & Recreation**  
**Mike Hahm**



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# Team

**Ellen Stewart**, Parks and Recreation Department Lead for Highland Bridge development

**David Kuebler**, Highland Bridge Technical Lead

**Alice Messer**, Manager Design and Construction

**Melanie McMahon**, Executive Project Lead

**Nick Koch**, Ryan Companies

**Mac Begovac**, Ryan Companies

**Tony Barranco**, Ryan Companies

**Maureen Michalski**, Ryan Companies

**Terry Minarik**, Confluence



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# Welcome



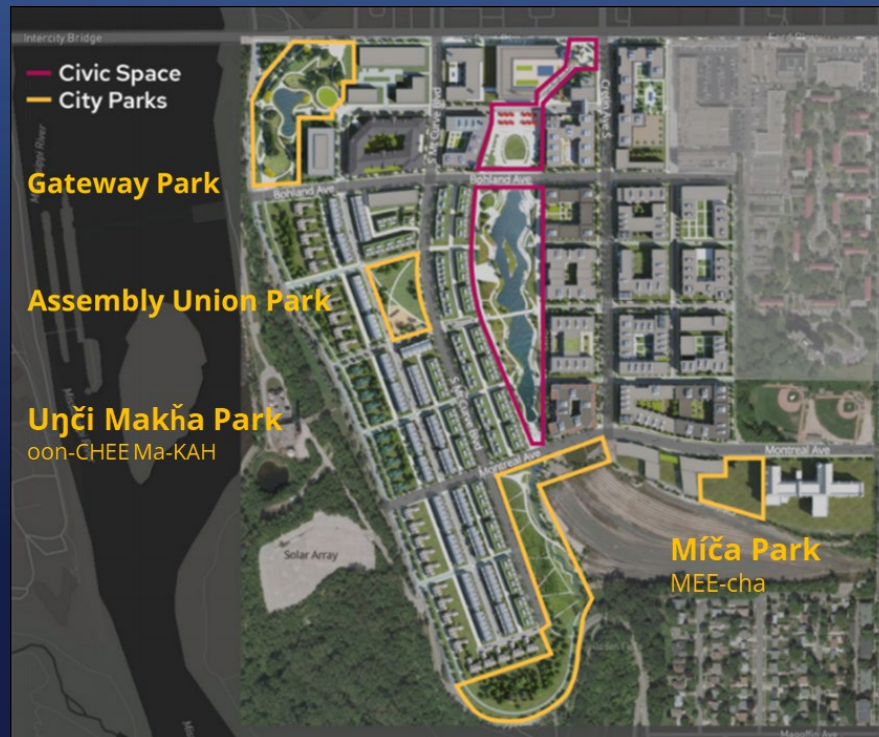
**Ward 3 City Councilmember  
Chris Tolbert**



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# Park Names



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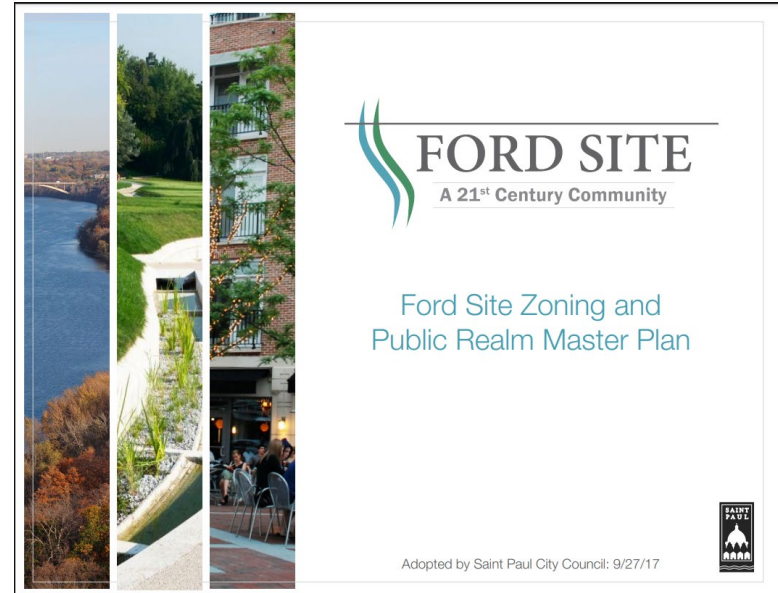
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# Master Plan Development

Open space, vegetation and public places will form the backbone of the community bringing people together through nature, recreation, and community events

- 2007-2017
- 27 Task Force Meetings
- 20 Public Meetings
- 3 Planning Commission Meetings
- Highland District Council Meetings
- Master Plan adopted 2017
- Amended 2019





# Open Space Plan

Platted December 2019

## City Parks 8.76 Acres

- Park A 2.24 acres
- Park B 1.55 acres
- Park C 3.47 acres
- Park D 1.5 acres

## Civic space 7.14 acres

- Central Water Feature 5.44 acres
- Civic Plaza 1.7 acres







# Open Space Planning

## Public Priorities Activities & Amenities

Surveys, Meetings,  
input, ideas, etc.



## System Needs Parks Department

Maintenance,  
Planning, Recreation



## Budget Realistic

Infrastructure,  
maintenance,  
balance



## Design Physical Layout

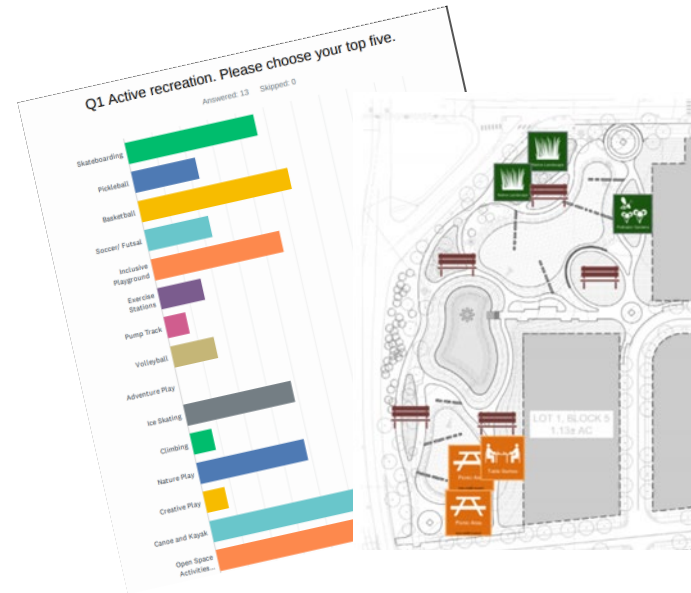
Program, character,  
context, stormwater





# Community Engagement for the City parks

- 2 pop up events – Rondo Days, Highland Fest
- 2 surveys (over 300 respondents)
- 5 Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings
- 3 PAC homework assignments
- 2 Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings
- 2 City Council meetings
- Naming process

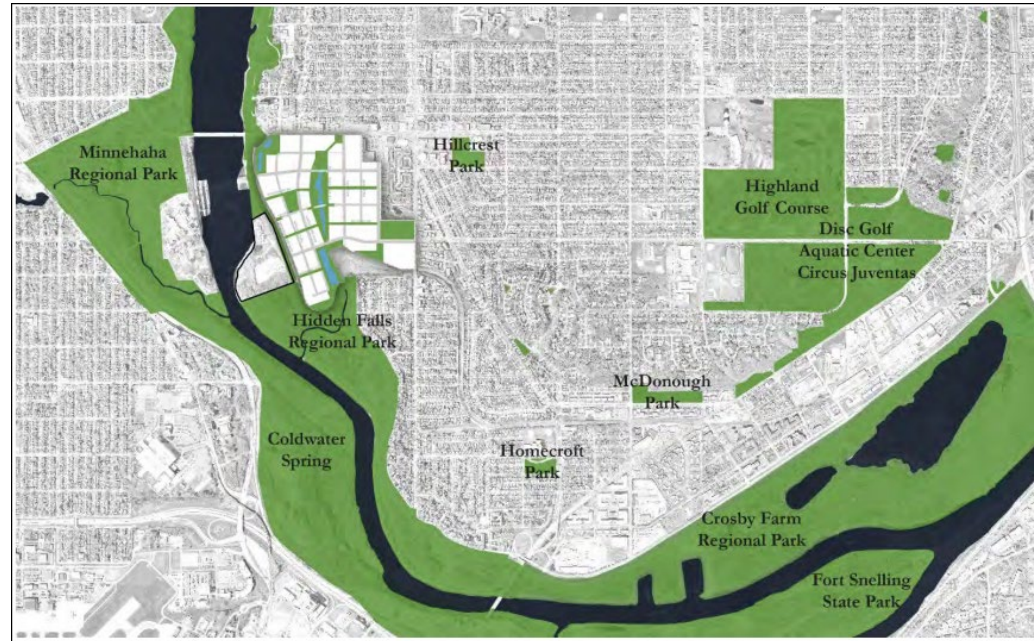




# Open Space Planning

- Address System Needs
- Future development uses and needs
- Context of the site
- Regional parks & trails

Established need for a balance of active and passive recreation. Specific local need for play area and system need for skate park. Provide parks that serve all ages and abilities and interests, and which connect people to each other and to the surrounding open spaces in the area.

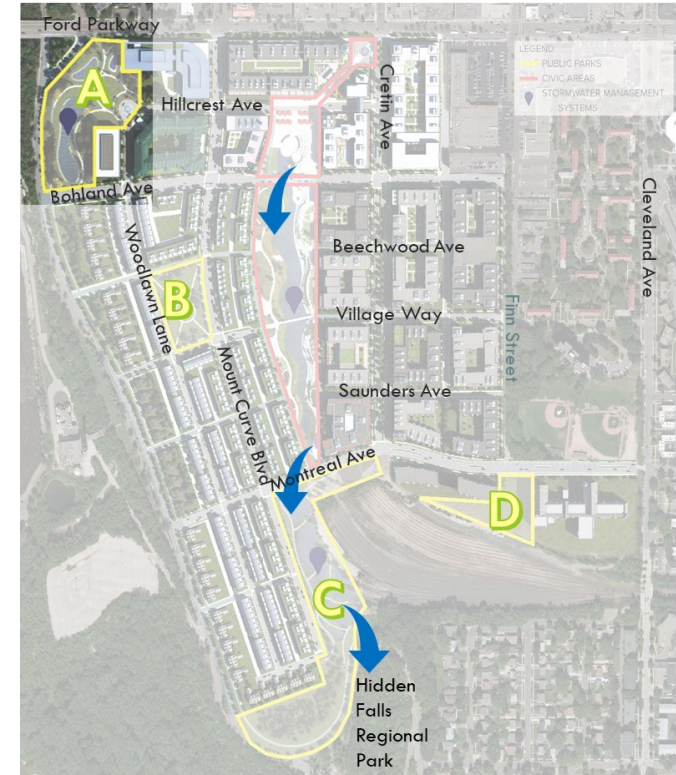




## Park A – Gateway Park

Prominently located park at the entry point from Minneapolis on the east end of the Ford Parkway Bridge and along Mississippi River Boulevard.

- 2.24 Acres
- Adjacent to Residential, office and MRB Trail and BRT
- Walking paths
- Skate trail and amenities
- Seating
- Game tables
- Drinking fountain







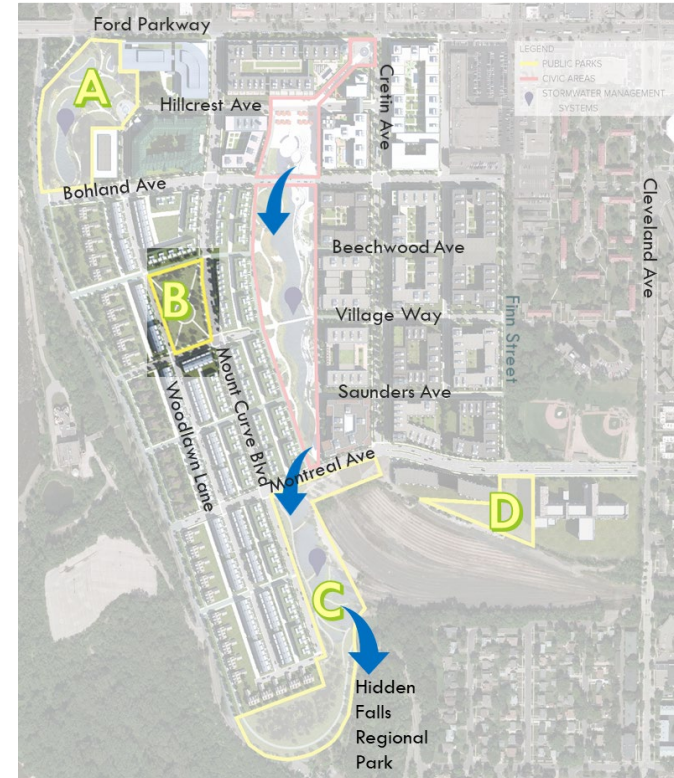
# Gateway Park



## Park B – Assembly Union Park

Ford Assembly Plant stood where this second park, will be constructed. Central location surrounded by residential.

- 1.55 Acre neighborhood park
- Play area
- Courts
- Off leash dog relief area
- Open lawn
- Seating
- Drinking fountain
- Location for future restroom







**Assembly Union Park**

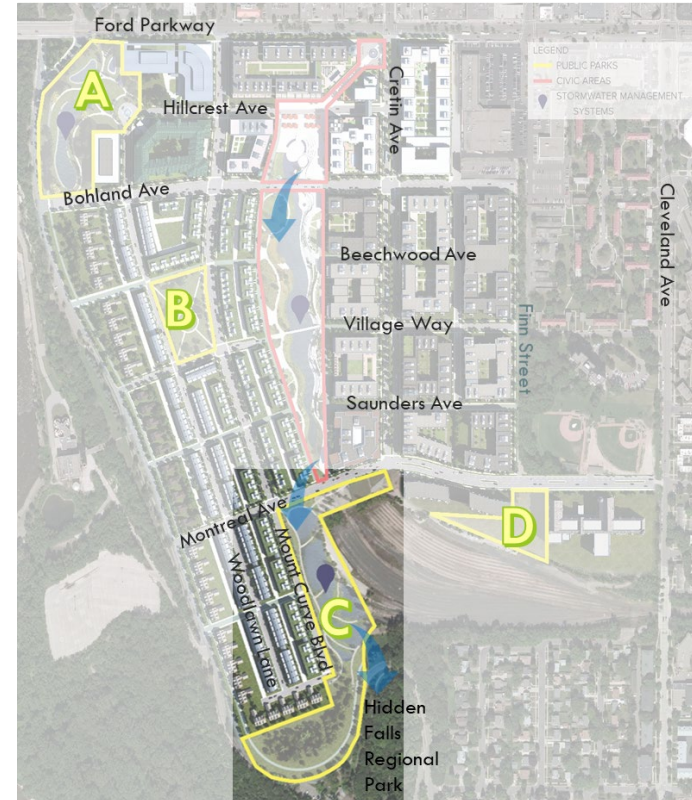


## Park C – Unci Makħa Park

Pronounced oon-CHEE Ma-KAH

Geography and features connect people from the developed site to more natural areas including access to Hidden Falls Regional Park. The park links the stormwater system from the neighborhood into the daylighted creek to the falls.

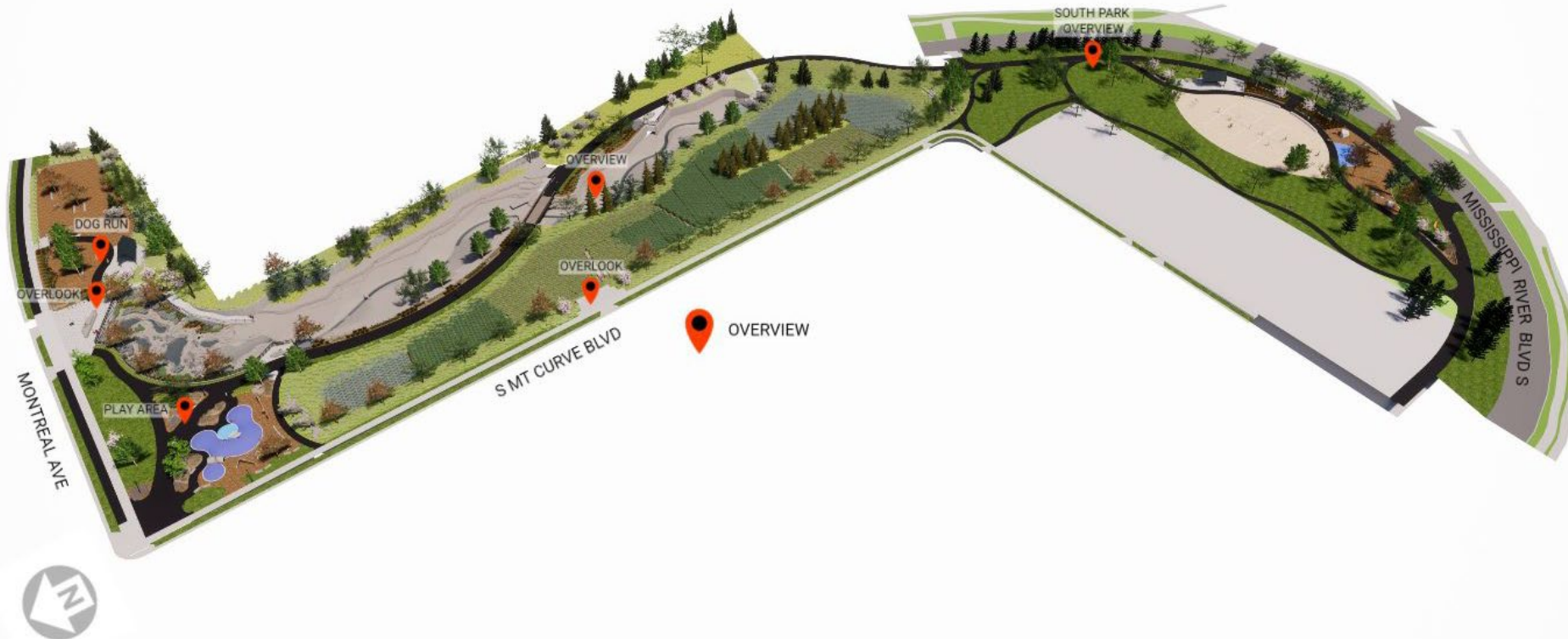
- 4.8 acres
- Walking paths
- Nature play area
- Off leash dog park
- Volleyball Courts
- Hammocking area
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Shelter







# Unci Makħa Park





# Mississippi River Boulevard Crossing

## Building a connection

- Great River Passage Master Plan
- Hidden Falls Crosby Farm Regional park Master Plan
- Hidden Falls Feasibility Study
- Ford Site Charrette (Park C)

**Anne Gardner**, Parks and Recreation Project Manager

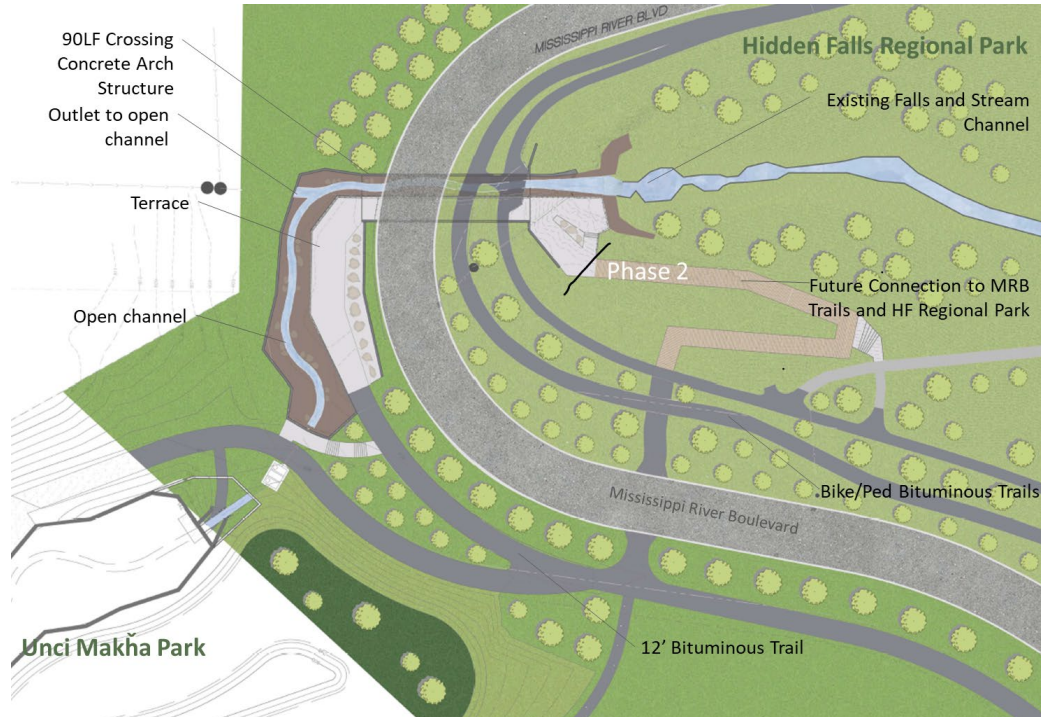
**Wes Saunders-Pearce**, City of St. Paul Water Resource Coordinator

**Jon Libby**, TKDA, Engineer





# Mississippi River Boulevard Crossing







# Mississippi River Boulevard Crossing



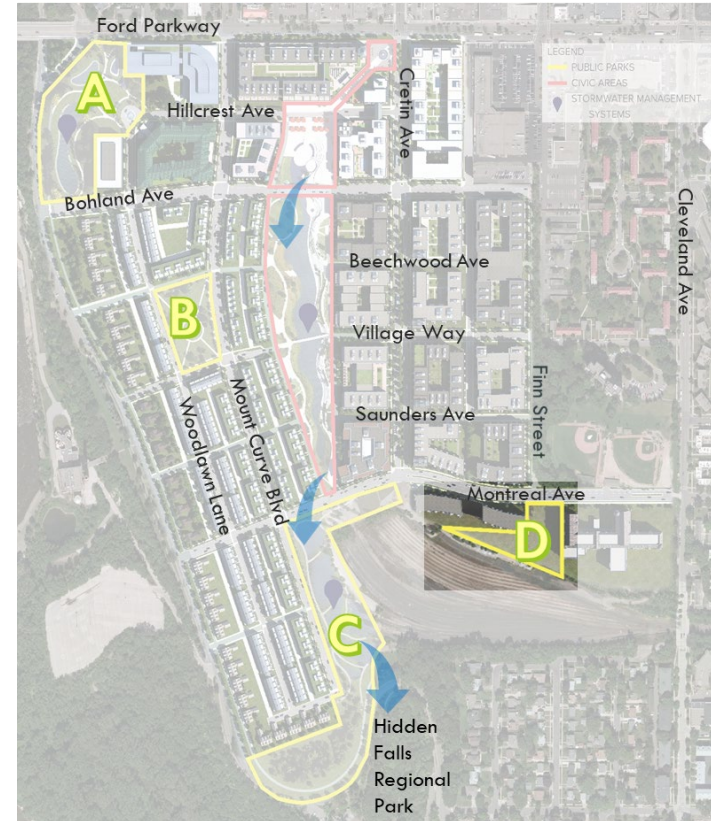


## Park D – Míča Park

Pronounced MEE-cha

Set up for future development including connection to CP Rail and community garden

- 1.5 acres
- Lawn and walks
- Wetland
- Steep slopes
- Water stubbed for hose connections
- Grading planned to accommodate accessible paths







**Míča Park**



# Construction Schedule

- 2020
  - Public roads and
  - Public utilities including site stormwater
- 2021
  - Gateway Park
  - Unci Makħa Park
  - Mississippi River Boulevard Crossing
- 2022
  - Assembly Union Park
  - Míĉa Park

# Questions

**Ellen Stewart**, Department Lead  
City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation  
[ellen.stewart@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ellen.stewart@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**Project Website**  
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# Thank you

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