



Swede Hollow Park Master Plan Survey Results

Report prepared by:
Veronica Burt
Community Development Consultant
600 Strategies, Inc.
univaveequity@yahoo.com
651-200-5212

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Introduction

About the Organization:

The Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP) is a non-profit organization located at 733 East 7th Street in Saint Paul, Minnesota. It was founded in 1997 and its project area stretches from Lake Phalen to the Mississippi River. LPCP's mission is to strengthen the East Side and Lowertown communities by developing and maximizing the value of local parks, trails, ecological and cultural resources, and by rebuilding connections to the Mississippi River. The organization's work includes the proposed construction of the Wakan Tipi Center within the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, which is a historic Dakota gathering place and sacred site. Other projects include a feasibility study for bringing portions of Phalen Creek back above ground and providing monthly programs that cultivate environmental stewards, education about nature and clean water, and highlights of the cultural and historic diversity of the area. The most recent project of LPCP includes partnering with the City of Saint Paul, Friends of Swede Hollow, McNeely Foundation, Urban Roots, District 4 Planning Council, District 5 Planning Council, Health East, and Hope Community Academy to create a **Master Plan for Swede Hollow Park**. With this effort, LPCP engaged the community about improvements to Swede Hollow Park that included matters such as better and more equitable access.



About Swede Hollow Park:

Swede Hollow Park is a natural corridor within the heart of the city following Phalen Creek in the Dayton's Bluff district. The Park's unique geography as a 25 acre, 150-foot deep ravine surrounded by dense communities makes it an ideal place for urban neighbors to discover and enjoy a quiet natural habitat away from the traffic and commotion of daily life. The area first known to European settlers as "Svenska Dalen," now Swede Hollow Park is part of a sacred region for the Dakota people. After the railroad arrived, it became a popular place for new immigrants to settle, beginning with the Swedes in the 1860s, then Italians, Irish, Poles, Mexicans, and others. The last houses in Swede Hollow were removed by city authorities in 1956 and the railroad tracks through the heart of the park have been converted to one of the most stunning sections of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail. The surrounding neighborhoods continue to attract immigrant communities from around the world, including Salvadoran, Karen, Hmong, East African, and others.

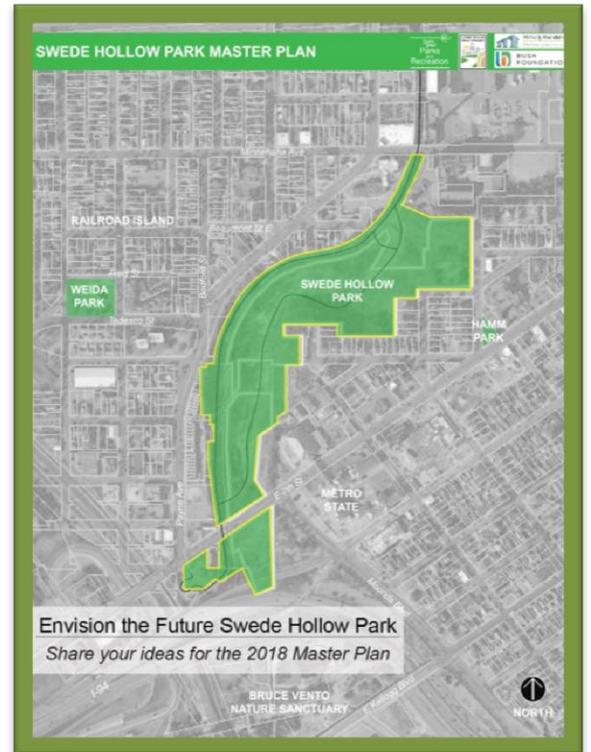
About the Master Plan:

The City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department is asking for public input on creating a master plan for Swede Hollow Park. The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide a focused park strategy informed by the landscape and community desires. The master plan's focus will include improving park and equitable access, increasing visibility and sense of security, natural resource management, providing options to restore stream flow to Phalen Creek, and historical and cultural interpretation and management for Swede Hollow Park. For information on the Swede Hollow Park Master Plan Project including timeline

and meetings, please visit www.stpaul.gov/swedehollowmasterplan.

About the Swede Hollow Park Survey:

Thanks to funding provided by the McNeely and Bush Foundations, the Swede Hollow Park Survey was conducted by a partnership between The City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department and Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP). Over 30 stakeholders were identified from an array of LPCP community partners, businesses, art, cultural, educational, political, residential and nonprofit organizations. Representing the ethnic variety of the area, a diverse engagement team was assembled to gather input via an online and paper survey from the fall of 2018 to the spring 2019 (see *Appendix A for a complete survey*). Throughout the engagement effort, LPCP secured over **300 responses** to help guide the **Master Plan for the Swede Hollow Park**.



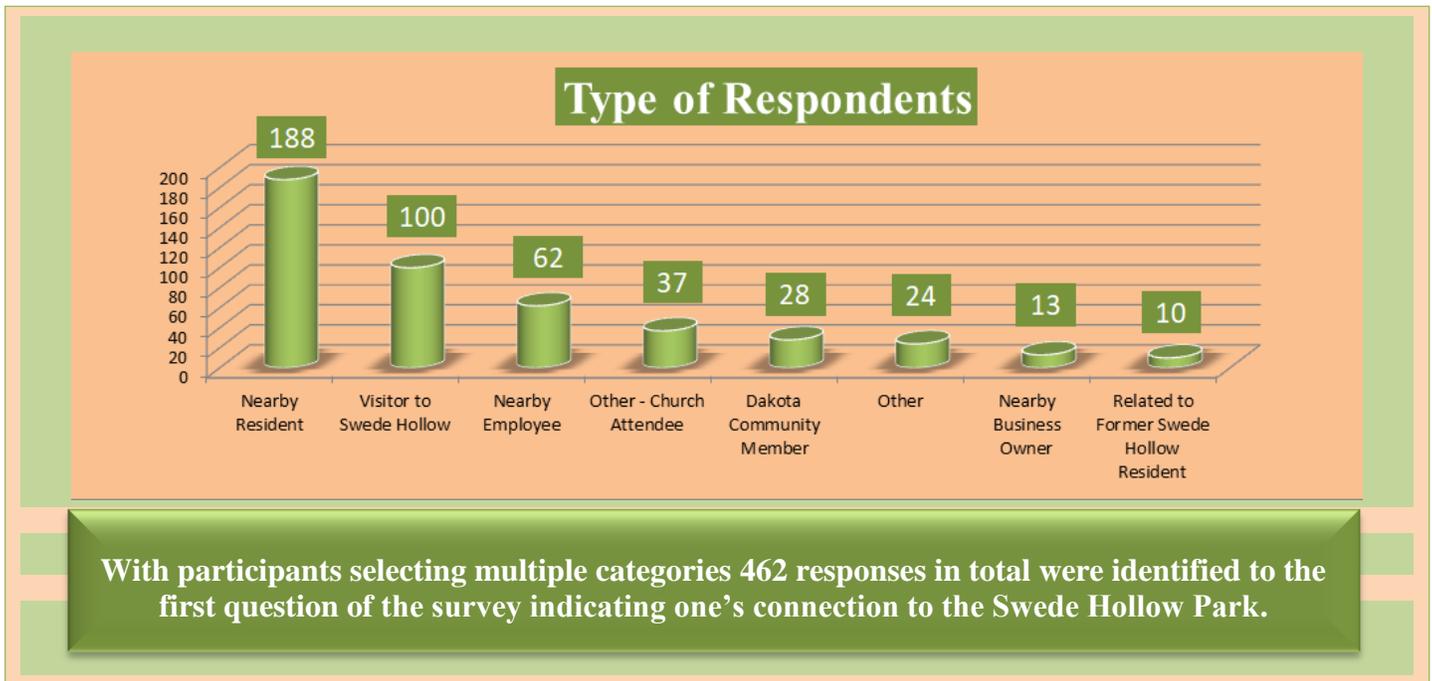
Survey Results

About Engagement Efforts:

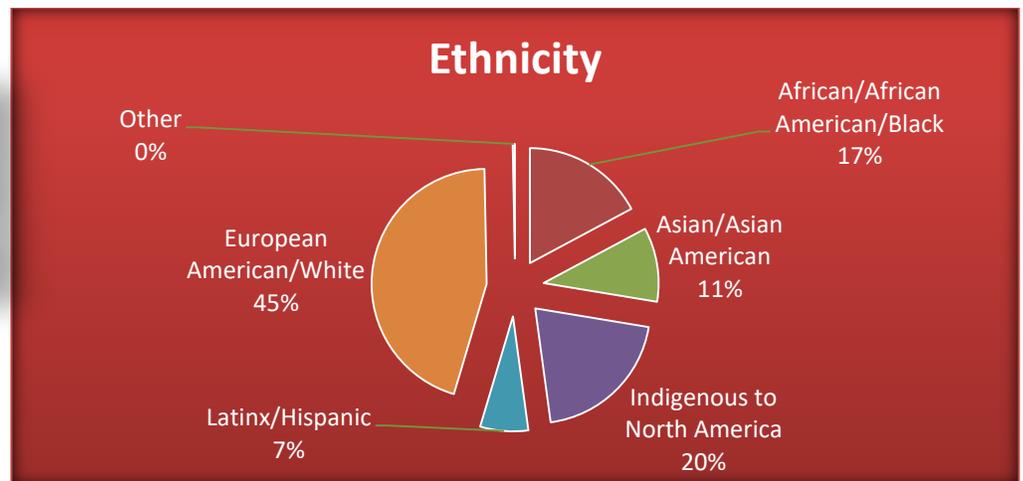
Engagement efforts incorporated the use of various approaches as team members meet with stakeholders during their regularly scheduled activities, conducted focus groups and outreach at community events, and hosted tours at the Swede Hollow Park. An additional method involved circulating the survey electronically to reach a broader distribution of stakeholders which aided our overall outreach approach.



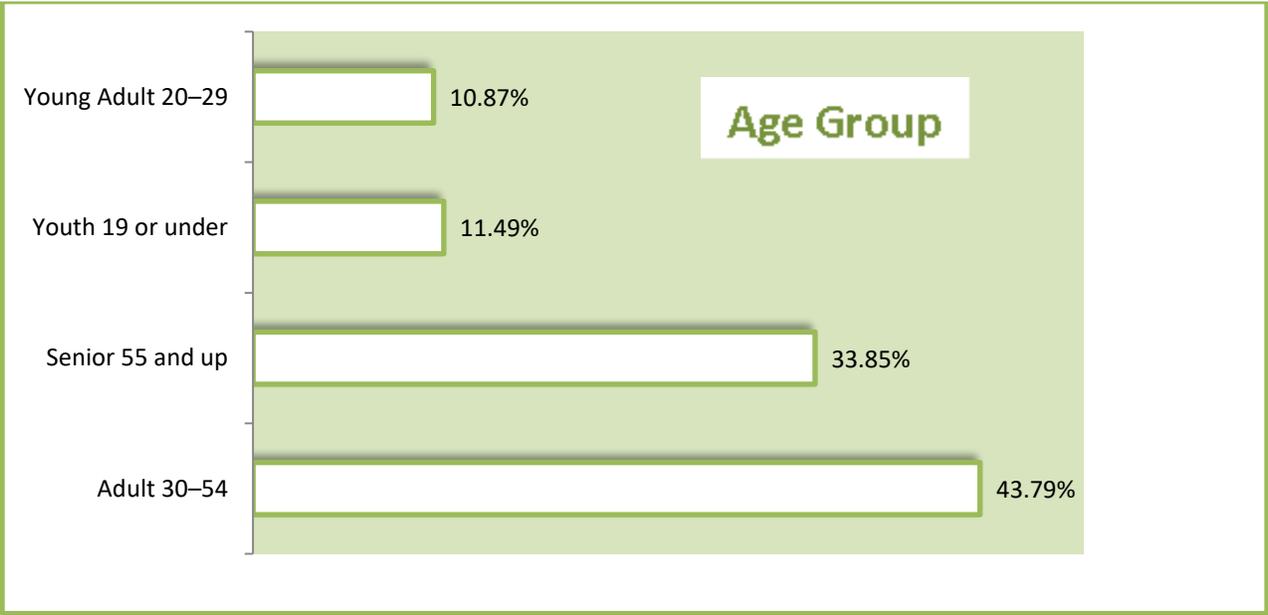
About Survey Participants:



“I like the diversity of the people who enjoy Swede Hollow Park; I like that my family has history there.”
Survey Participant

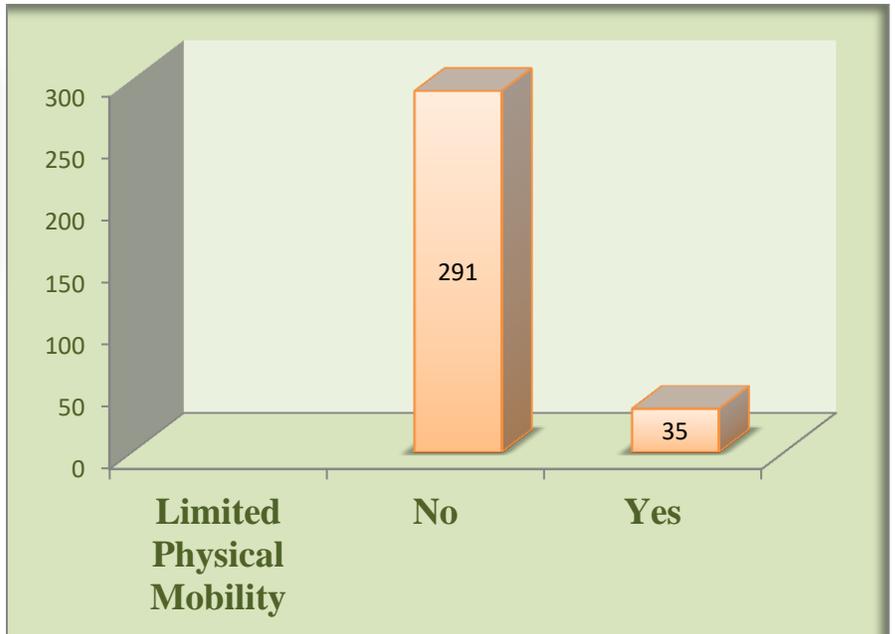


While the proportion of our service area is 5%, we did exceptionally well engaging the Indigenous community. Likewise, we found ourselves on target with the African/African American/Black community given their area representation at 13%. Where more engagement efforts can expand as the project advances is with the Latinx/Hispanic and Asian American communities who respectively reflect over 12% and 32% of the service area. Although we conducted focus groups with a set of Hmong Youth and Elders and a Latinx Church group, we nonetheless faced challenges wherein many members of these respective communities had no knowledge or relationship to the park and therefore saw no need to provide comment. Another challenge was not having a Latinx engagement team member who may have had easier inroads into the Latinx community given the current political climate facing many with immigration concerns.



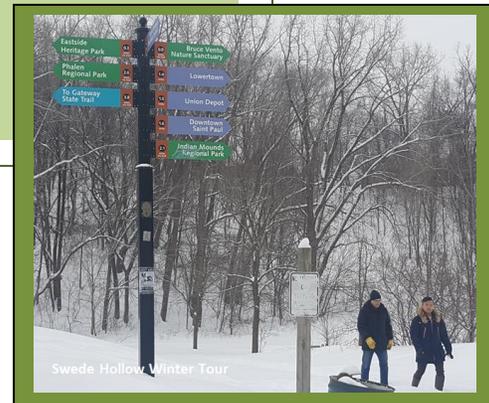
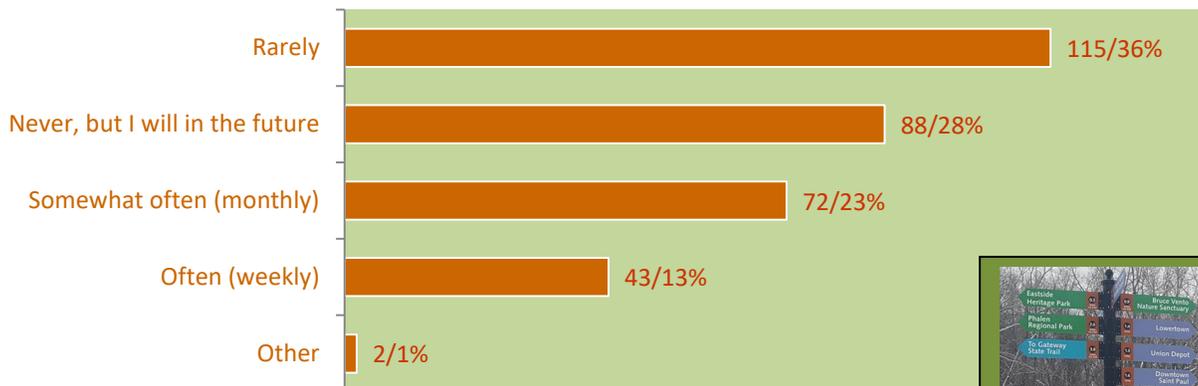
*“How would I even get down there?
There is no accessibility for disabled”*

Survey participant



Connection to Swede Hollow Park:

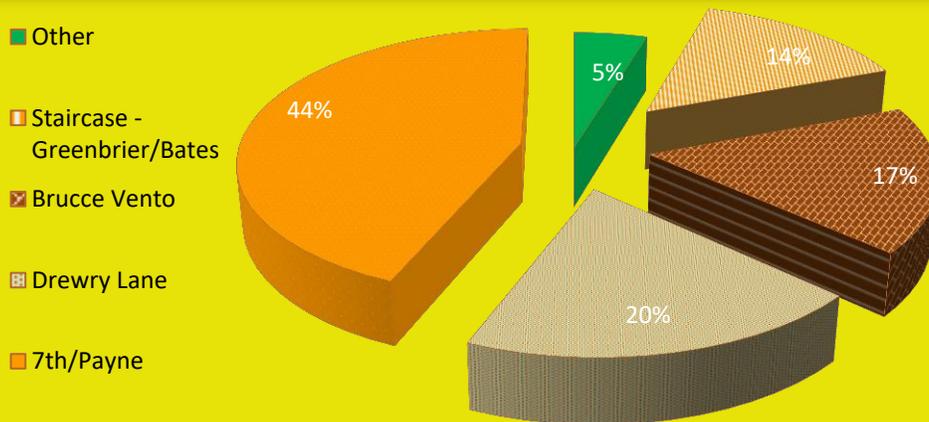
How often do you visit Swede Hollow Park?

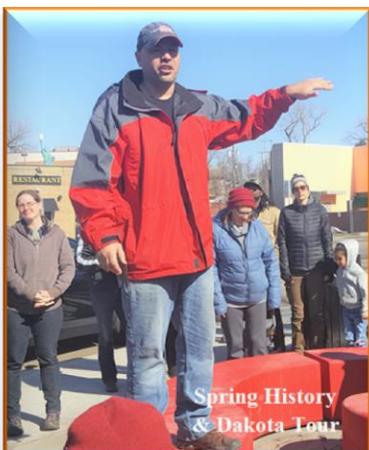
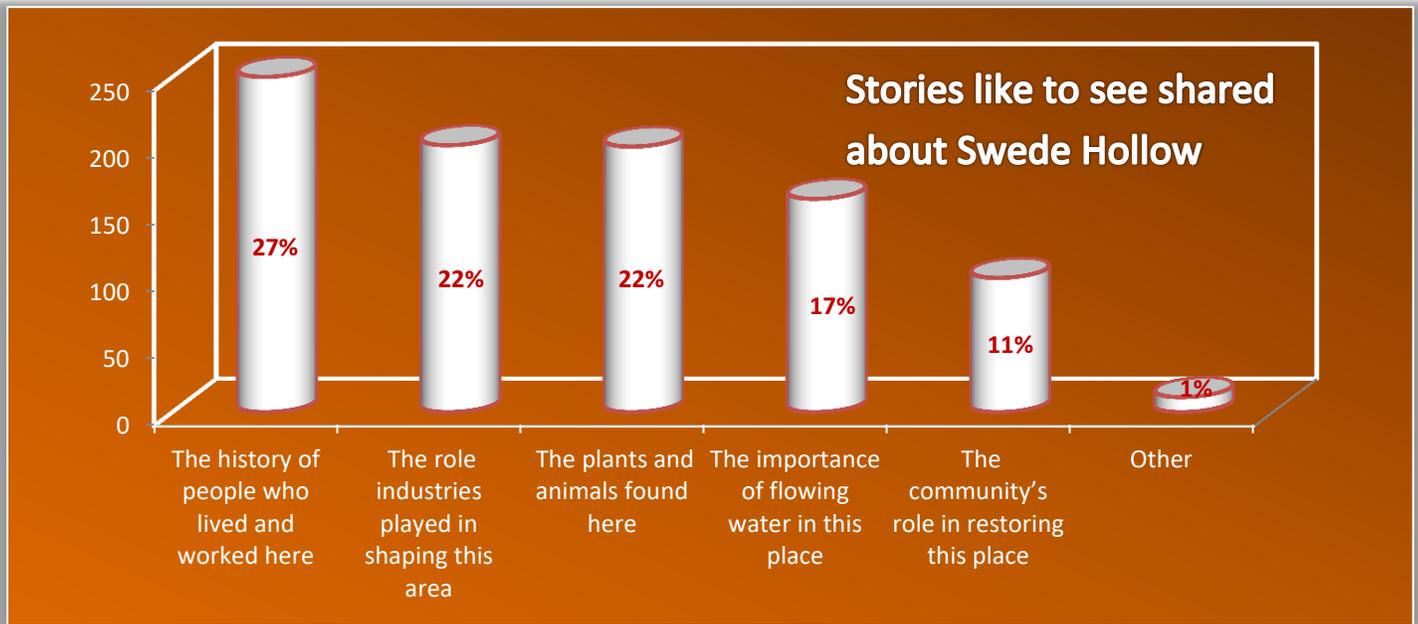


What needs improvement is “increased usage by more diverse cultures.”

Survey Participant

Entrance most likely use





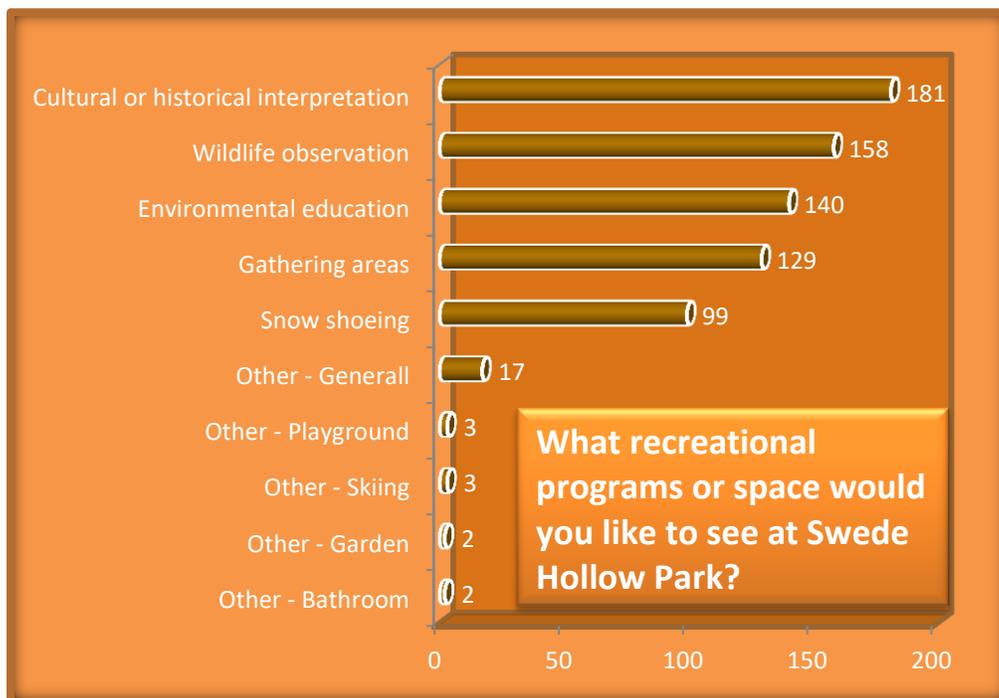
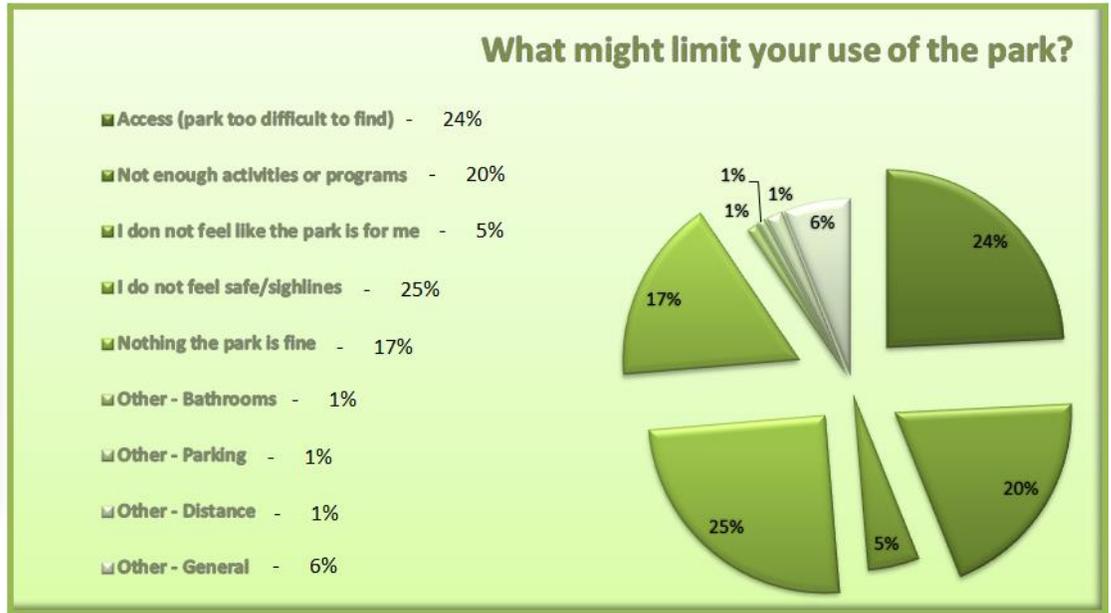
I like best “the cultural significance to American Indian people and a connection to the past for our communities who live and work here today.”

Survey participant

How to Improve Swede Hollow:

“Make Park more visible w/ more people I will fill more safe”

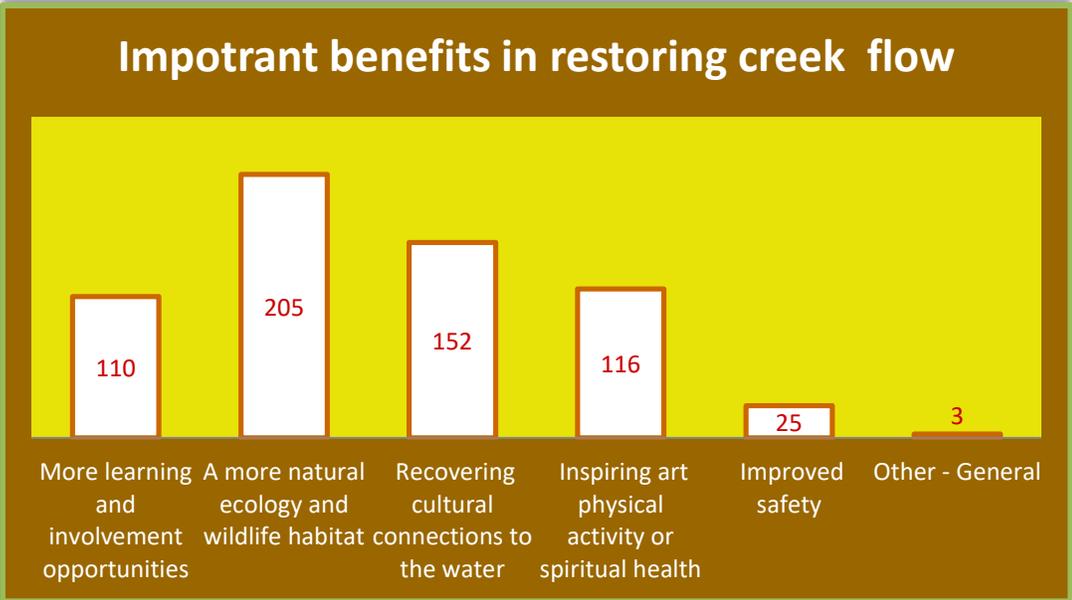
Survey participant



“A place where Indigenous folks can do ceremony and pray”

Survey participant

“Running water and large natural areas bring plants and animals...”
Survey Participant



Please select the potential changes that would most likely increase your use of the park:

Improve signage/wayfinding	122	17%
Improve access to the creek	119	16%
Expand invasive species/natural habitat management	109	15%
Add lighting	105	14%
Add or improve gathering areas	103	14%
Improve trail surfaces	82	11%
Add more public art	67	9%
Other - General	6	1%
Other - No developments, improvements, lighting	5	1%
Other - Safety	4	1%
Other - Trash removal	2	0%
Other - Park great already	2	0%
Other - More people using the park	2	0%
Other - Events/Programs	2	0%
Other - Dakota Name	2	0%
Other - Playground	2	0%

Lessons Learned

Instead of concentrating limited LPCP resources around creating a multiplicity of new engagement activities, we elected to identify stakeholders, assemble a diverse engagement team, host 3 park tours, engage through existing activities and conduct focus groups in an effort to elicit community based feedback. In so doing, we gleaned a number of learned lessons that could help inform future engagement efforts. Such lessons entailed:

- Ensure that an engagement campaign incorporates the summer season. Doing so would ease opportunities to access the multitude of community meetings and events of identified stakeholders. While over 300 respondents completed our survey, more could be reached during the summer activities that tend to draw large crowds – especially the activities that cater to and attract ethnic stakeholders.
- Taking special care to add a Latinx engagement team member who may have deeper relationships and easier inroads into the Latinx community especially given that the current political climate makes it challenging to quickly build trust when high immigration concerns exist.
- Seeing that many of the immigrant and other stakeholders of color were unfamiliar with the Swede Hollow Park, perhaps future engagement efforts should first identify opportunities that would initially familiarize respondents to the site. For example, intentionally partner with cultural organizations and exclusively conduct tour sessions that would both introduce community stakeholders to the park as well as illicit their feedback for improvement.
- When planning future site tours, devise a plan B in case of unplanned weather conditions. During the Spring, the engagement team planned a park tour that was to start at the entrance of the Drewry Tunnel. Due to rapid snow melt, a sheet of ice formed at the entrance of the tunnel as the temperature dropped -- making it difficult for tour attendees to walk down the sloped pathway into the park. Abruptly, the engagement team switched gears and conducted the tour from the overlook along Payne Ave. While the tour was nonetheless successful, having a plan B would have minimized programmatic anxiety.

Conclusion

Overall, results of the Swede Hollow Park survey indicate that respondents overwhelmingly enjoy the park for physical activities with **walking/hiking/jogging at a 53% response rate and bike riding/rollerblading at 16%**. As for what ranked highest amongst the preferred stories patrons would like to see shared at the park, **the history of people who lived and worked in Swede Hollow garnered a response rate of 27%**. In the 20th percentile, **not feeling safe at 25%, park access at 24% and not having enough activities or programs at 20%** ranked the most upon asking what might limit their use of the park. Regarding the kinds of recreational programs or space users would like made available, **cultural or historical interpretation ranked the highest**

with 181 respondents in agreement. When it came to the benefits seen as most important with restoring the creek flow, **205 said a more natural ecology and wildlife habitat was key.** Finally, as participants selected from a host of choices to the question of what changes would increase their use of the park, **improved signage/wayfinding ranked highest at 17%.** This of course is understandable as many within the engagement team came across numerous new community members who were completely unfamiliar with the park and suggested that better signage would help make the park more known.

With the more open ended questions of the survey (Appendix B), what participants found best about Swede Hollow were themes reflecting the **natural beauty and history of the park.** As for what they thought needed improvement, repeated themes of **signage/access, safety, history/culture, park clean up, and natural resource management** appeared prominent.

In a snapshot, as one review the culmination of survey findings, it is apparent that improvements should be made to the park that would make it more accessible, safe, naturally enhanced, and culturally/historically reflective. As the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department continues with its master planning process, LPCP looks forward to the result of this community driven survey guiding their effort.

Swede Hollow Park Master Plan Survey

Also available online! www.lowerphalencreek.org/swedehollowsurvey

Tell us about you

Are You? (check all that apply)

- A nearby resident
- A nearby business owner
- A nearby employee
- A member of the Dakota community
- Related to someone who lived in Swede Hollow Park
- A visitor to Swede Hollow Park
- Other: _____

What is your age group?

- Youth 19 or under
- Young Adult 20 – 29
- Adult 30 – 54
- Senior 55 and up

How do you identify culturally? (check all that apply)

- African/African American/Black
- Asian/Asian American
- European American/White
- Indigenous to North America
- Latinx/Hispanic
- Other: _____

Do you have limited mobility?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

Tell us about your connection to Swede Hollow Park.....

How often do you visit Swede Hollow Park?

- Often (weekly)
- Somewhat often (monthly)
- Rarely
- Never, but I will in the future
- Other: _____

What entrance are you most likely to use?

- 7th/Payne entrance at the south end
- Bruce Vento Regional Trail at the north end
- Staircase at Greenbrier or Bates Avenue
- Drewry Lane tunnel
- Other: _____

How do you enjoy Swede Hollow Park? (Check all that apply)

- Walking/hiking/jogging
- Bike riding/rollerblading
- Picnic/group gathering
- Bird watching/wildlife
- Events (e.g. Art in the Hollow, History walks, etc.)
- Spiritual/cultural purposes
- Education/teaching
- Other: _____

What stories would you like to see shared about Swede Hollow Park?

- The history of people who lived and worked here
- The role industries played in shaping this area
- The plants and animals found here
- The importance of flowing water in this place
- The community's role in restoring this place
- Other: _____

Tell us your thoughts on how to improve Swede Hollow Park

What do you like best about Swede Hollow Park?

What might limit your use of the park?

- Access (the park is difficult to find or get to)
- Not enough activities or programs
- I do not feel like the park is for me
- I do not feel safe/sightlines
- Nothing, the park is fine as is
- Other: _____

What do you think needs improvement about the Park?

What kinds of recreational programs or space would you like to see at Swede Hollow Park?

- Snow shoeing
- Gathering areas
- Wildlife observation
- Cultural or historical interpretation
- Environmental education
- Other: _____

What benefits do you consider most important as a result of restoring the creek flow in Swede Hollow Park?

- More learning and involvement opportunities
- A more natural ecology and wildlife habitat
- Recovering cultural connections to the water
- Inspiring art, physical activity, or spiritual health
- Improved safety
- Other: _____

Please select the potential changes that would most likely increase your use of the park:

- Add or improve gathering areas
- Improve signage/wayfinding
- Improve trail surfaces
- Expand invasive species/natural habitat management
- Add lighting
- Improve access to the creek
- Add more public art
- Other: _____

Thank you

How would you like to support this project?

- I would like to volunteer, please contact me! (please provide your contact info)
- I would like to make a financial contribution, please contact me! (please provide your contact info)
- I'm not interested at the moment but I wish you well with this effort!
- Other: _____

If you wish to support our effort or enter into the drawing for a **\$50 Gift Certificate from an East Side business establishment**, please provide your contact information and **PRINT CLEARLY:**

Name

Address

City *State* *Zip*

Email

Phone

Please scan this survey and email to:

info@lowerphalencreek.org **Or**

mail to:

Lower Phalen Creek Project
733 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106

clean

Natural beauty, history, hidden

The natural feel of it. The ability to bike. the slopes

peaceful oasis

That it is a nature pack. A natural area for the immediate neighborhood of railroad island and daytons bluff

the nature and creek. The bike access. The potential for connection to the Hams brewery development

its a world away, a long history of human use with indigenous people, the connection to bruce vento trail

nature, stories, history

the escape from city life

I love the feeling of a wild place in the city- an oasis from the urban nature of the city

Full of history

7th st bridge/tunnel, history, relatively flat for such a hilly area good for running

The natural surroundings of the hollow, it's history

Would be an oasis here, but too low and too dark

the quiet and proximity

tall trees, fresh air, paved walks

history

history it was beautiful growing up here

all the trees, nature, birds, the quiet, the water flowing there

Nature

Nature

I like the diversity of the people who enjoy Swede Hollow Park; I like that my family has history there.

It's so quiet and peaceful and I love the history

it's calming and beautiful views

Cultural Sacred Site

The reminder of what was, so that we are encouraged to keep it sacred for those yet to walk through it

privacy

cultural knowledge within the city

The quiet part of the land.

Beautiful greenery/setting, fountain.

Sounds great

Quietude

the beauty

the historical aspect

Beauty and Dakota spiritual site

it is close by where I live and very hidden

Wakan Tipi

The cultural significance to American Indian people and a connection to the past for our communities who live and work here today.

Dakota history/sacred sites

Natural area, birds and wildlife

I like the relatively smooth trail due to the former railroad right-of-way.

Tall trees

There is a lot to see, explore and discover. Taking long walks just enjoying nature can really put your mind together.

I went there quite often, as a kid. My friends and I loved hanging out there. Great memories and a beautiful place!

The history of the people that lived there and why.

The fact that you can be in St Paul, right above the park and not know it's down there.

Great for bicycle commuting from the West End.

The location

It's history.

The sense of seclusion and peace in the heart of the city.

Location

Being able to walk and enjoy the natural beauty

Natural plants. Benches and the view

The peace in a busy city

Very quiet nice break from busy city life.

The location is nice, the history is interesting.

Quiet place in the city

The tunnel and the split path

The natural feeling it has

The History

It's a nice throughway when cycling, gets me off the road away from cars.

The history and continued attraction to various groups

Lots of places to hide

proximity to the city

History

It is a quiet, underdeveloped trail in the middle of a busy city. Being out of sight of the roadway is especially appealing.

Walking and wildlife

Quiet

The greenery, nature, trails

It's a beautiful green space with a fascinating history in the middle of the city.

The proximity to the dense, urban centers of Minneapolis and St Paul

It's beautiful- the natural landscape is incredible in such a dense urban area

History and retreat from the city

An oasis in the heart of the city.

The nature and quiet space

Nature in the heart of the city, quiet

The connection from Lake Phalen to downtown and bike trails on the Mississippi.

The nature, quiet and silent, peaceful

Location

Seeing animals in the middle of the city

It's wildness and it's size.

Nature sanctuary devoid of people, history, urban nature/remnants of past habitation and use

a central spot for east side residents to enjoy a quiet and natural place

The way you can interact with wildlife walking

indigenous history of the area, dakota sacred sites. How did immigrants to this area get along with indigenous community

i barely know anything about it

its fun and relaxing

park in the middle of a city <3

Art festival

a center in the city where there is peace, quiet, trees, rich air, sounds and nature

the history

beauty and potential

peacefulness

the natural seeps, opportunity to daylight a creek

a place apart while still being very proximate to several vibrant communities

entering the park feels like ive left the city

you dont feel like youre in the middle of the city because youre below streer, and in the summer the trees help block traffic noise

the spiritual attachment my people had to this land

art festival

art festival

art festival, beauty in the city

wildlife and water resources

its a shortcut to bus

the people

how beautiful

nature

nature away from the city and the spiritual connection Dakota people have to the land

na

History

Great place to bicycle, plants and animals, water

how close it is to my work. that it is an amazing piece of open space in the middle of so much urban development.

It is a secluded oasis in the heart of the city

Its a beautiful place to go walking on nice days when the weather is nice.

nature

location

It is quiet. I love that.

appearance of being outside the city

It is one of the few large-ish green spaces on the east side.

It's a beautiful, peaceful place of respite during crazy work days!

Quiet lovely oasis so close to downtown; idea that so much history has happened

beautiful, wild, peaceful. It feels so remote and I like that.

trees

walking/biking path

Quiet and relaxing to walk in the warmer months

The topography and trees/plants/wildlife

It's there and it has wildlife in it.

that nobody knows about it.

Nature in an urban setting

Walking paths

the fact that I can visit a beautiful park in the middle of the city

feels alive, richly verdant

Still has wildlife and natural wooded areas

A place to walk with greenery right in the city.

Trail. But also its mystic quality.

A large semi natural space in an urban area

The solitude

when your down in there its hard to belive there is a city not far

Access within the city for community members; teaching tool for science, history, art, etc.; long cultural history

Green Space in a highly developed area

Natural setting close to downtown

The history of the area, its beauty, and the ease of getting to Flat Earth brewery and the visitor center.

The solitude of the park.

Trees water quiet

Green space for urban residents.

The nature and it being this little haven of green and trees and water right in the middle of a neighborhood. Also goes without saying the history and story of Swede Hollow.

Quiet refuge in the city

It's alive with history, isn't a manicured park, still feels wild.

So much history, of so many peoples. It shows our interconnectedness.

The history, which I happened to be curious about and looked up online. Everyone should know the real stories about real people and how diverse Stp has always been.

the history of its establishment and dakota history

The illusion of isolation. The deer. The bird watchers and the ladies picking watercress with their kids. It's the best morning commute anyone could wish for.

It's to walk and riding bike

Recreation

Art

Water

Sitting areas

Quiet

I have never been there

I will like more about arts and music

Not been there

It's Central location and various multiple access

It's nice park where you can ride and jog everyday

The peace and beauty it brings to the area

It should be free for all

A lot of things

Never been there

I didn't know about this park

Walking

What I would like is for the park to be more child friendly

Accessible

Secure

It is located in a central place

Not been there

Not been there

When I biked through it in the fall the trees and lushness of it all were amazing

There is history

The cultural history

Never been there

History, natural setting

-Trails

-Wildlife (white tail deer)

-Fresh air

-Nice folks/community

Restoration of dakota sites, more about Dakota site

Never gone to it

Location

I've never been there

nature and water

its history- the fact that its in st.paul the people you meet here. wildlife

ATTRACT more people

Safety concern

provide additional oppurtunities

N/A never heard of this place before

Never heard of the park

i used to walk when i first moved to st.paul honestly forgot about it until maggie lorenz involvement

Quiet spaces along the creek connection with Bruce Vento nature area

Natural growth

running water and large natural areas bring plants and animals (birds, bees, butterflies.

Events

The beauty of green lushness in a urban area- the Fox, deer etc.that wonder sep from the hollow. the sacred sense of being cradled in peace. That community cause; cause for the pach so deeply

It is beautiful. The first time I wisiyed I was amazed I had never heard of it before + AITH

How hidden it is!

I lose the feeling of being in nature in the heart of the city

Not sure how to get there no signage that I know of

I support the day lighting plan for the park

Beauty, wildness, proximity, history, connection

History

Peaceful

Green

Natural

The wild and tangled and tranquil beauty, while still being accessible also, history

NATURAL AREA in urban location.

nature, natural

How lush and green it is a hidden gem 1 mile from down town, oh an the variety of animals we see

Love the hidden aspect what a gem!!!

That you're honoring the Dakota past and present

Deer, water, trees, everything!!

Its my newest nature area. Its sentimental history

Its my newest nature area. Its sentimental history

Open creek

Like that it is natural & what you are trying to do to bring back the water

Like that it is natural & what you are trying to do to bring back the water

Shortcut thru the houses

What do you think needs improvement about the Park?

sight lines, more group activities, signage from downtown st.paul, tribute to Dakota people, walking groups

flooding in lower areas and restoring natural water flow

removal of invasive species, east side walking trail, water quality improvement

access to the creek, maps and info for places

boardwalk over the seep on the eastside trail, daylight phalen creek and improve wetlands, restore more native plantings

more signage showing people where the park is

safety, homeless camp in problematic

how to get to it

water flow. Pathways to the park

signage for the entrances, managing water specially future major rain events, remove invasive species and encourage native species

still smell sewers, elevate the sidewalk and let water flow where it wants, pervious pavers

could you promote usage by electric scooters?

sense of safety

create attractive wetland area above water

invasives, water flow, litter

controlling water running across the paved walk and more lighting to see at night

space to tell more about the history and culture, need for safety, clean out old wood

Removing invasives, restoring native plants, viewing access to the Creek, clean up

Removing invasives, restoring native plants, viewing access to the Creek, clean up

Native American history must be respected and present for an ethical transformation of the space. Having signage in the Dakota language would be great.

marketing that it exists-bathroom area

open

Water

recognition of care taking and signage to reflect the protective necessities

safety

A place where Indigenous folks can do ceremony and pray.

Clean-up, maintenance, safety.

Lighting, markers, trails, benches

leave it alone

more protection and education about it being a Dakota spiritual site

trails and safety

It is isolated, and the nearby railroad contributes to that experience. It might be beneficial to either create more trails and access points; this would encourage an increased sense of personal safety.

Access and facilities.

Put up signage about the geology of the bluffs, Dakota sacred site, state no tagging, drinking, using drugs in the sanctuary. It is a sacred place.

Remove invasives, improve habitat, resource improvements for water quality, site and visual cleanup, bird watching educational signage

I think renovation of the Hamm Brewery could make the site look ether, but that's not part of this project.

Playground equipment, stretching stations, workout stations

Directions of signs with approximate distance from post to post.

Just minor improvements

The feeling of it being a safe place to walk around.

Getting the word out that it's there. I never actually went down there until I went to Art in the Hollow. And I worked downtown for years.

Nothing

Accessibility, landscape

It would be wonderful to restore the creek!

Drainage, sewer smell, access in wintertime

Used more

I haven't been there in years but people I know walk there now do not feel secure walking there

Can be somewhat scary as parts are isolated and at times there are few people there

Get rid of the homeless camps. They are disgusting and trash the park

Feeling more secure

Access to childrens programming on the weekend

It needs to be cleaned up

more acknowledgment of the original people who lived there

Do not know. Have not been there yet.

Facilities to encourage it to be used as a park: picnic tables, benches, etc.

designated spaces for a variety of activities; easier access

People who dont live there shouldnt be bothering people who live there.

promotion and lighting

access and promotion

Clean it up

Regular trash pickup and a few more street lamps.

Safety and restrooms

Security

Lighting.

Accessibility, water flow- the lower trail is often flooded and smells horrible

Trash removal from the woodland area(s)

facilities and/or simple shelter, but manage the hobo situation and threatening gangstahs

Accessibility, 7th Street Improvement Tunnel, water on eastern path, sewer gas smell on south end, water quality in south pond, removal of invasive species

Less trash

I'd like to see more landscaping and keeping the park clean

Useage, so what do the new immigrants who live near want from it?

feeling safe

Maintenance

In some places there is garbage on the ground

bathrooms, emergency beacons, trash removal, police foot patrol.

plant many many many more trees. Dont make any more access points

access, trails by the stream, ability to cross stream, steps improved, signage

water flow, more wild flowers

swede heritage, dont lose trees

aesthetics of structures/ practices, access to water, interpretation that includes geology, opportunity for artists

opportunity to dangle my feet in the water in the summer, the way you can in mears park, ability to cross country ski in the winter, more overlooks to enjoy from above, perhaps a trail up top near edge where possible, like east river road

daylight the creek

Don't know enough to answer this

Better accessibility to/from the east

I was just down there last week and saw a lot of trash (which I understand is part of this winter thaw) but especially things like alcohol bottles is a signal that this is not a place that is for me and that it might potentially be dangerous, especially since I often walk by myself (I am female).

It sometimes feels unsafe, with uneven terrain

control of the environment. there has been time we have walked and there are not nice people in that area

safety

better information about how to access

NA--I like that it is hidden and a little hard to get to.

More events and exposure about it as an attraction to get more people to use it.

Clearing the staircase in the winter for better access. More active management, e.g. planting natives, trash removal (though I know that takes staff which is expensive). Please just don't chop down the trees and/or close it down. I really need green space and it's so limited on this side of town!

flooding on walking paths is a problem! :)

We take grandkids a lot--even a small area for playspace would be GREAT

sometimes there is litter/ debris left behind. Some areas feel creepy, and I've walked up on people doing sketchy things (drinking, disrobing, etc). I wouldn't want to sacrifice the remote feeling though by adding a lot of lighting or overbuilding the park. I've also noticed lots of invasive plant species.

safety

security - won't go alone

Accessibility

a place to congregate, picnic, etc.

Don't know.

safety. Too many transient men living in the surrounding woods.

Clean up and safety

Walking paths

safety

water flow/ insect reduction, access points

Less infiltration of city lighting so wild plants and animal communities can thrive

Safety

Removing some of the overgrowth to be able to see the landscape of the valley better. Also more interpretive space. Space for public activities.

Restore the creek

restoring the full flowing phalen creek

Safety; cleanliness; conservation

Improvements in water flow

Safety and bathrooms

Personal safety concerns

The access points on the North end of the park needs to be improved. More of inviting place to park and enter the park.

Access, water restoration and movement, increased usage by more diverse cultures, less feeling of ownership by long term members of Friends of Swede Hollow

Build a bridge over the creek instead of trying to navigate the natural spring water.

Better lighting in some areas but not so much that it's overly lit. More signage would be helpful, I know the park can be hard to find if you don't know what you're looking for. Maybe a sign on Payne Ave. directing people where to turn to reach the Drewry Street Tunnel entrance.

Access

Nothing

More events, more promotion/local pride, more support from the St. Paul city government

There should be more ways in and out. It was a little scary going through by myself and realizing I'm kind of stuck down there.

I'm not sure. I am only beginning to discover it.

The stairs are falling apart and have no bike access from the upper park. Not sure how you'd accomplish a ramp from up here but I know I'd appreciate it.

A bigger sign that tells me where the park is, a more open area so the park can be seen from far away

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Can add fun place to around

Not sure

Park fences

More acknowledgement of the Park

Side walk

Amphitheater stage

I have never been there

Not been there

Same more floral touch up same signage

More things to do down there and bathroom some where

Claeanliness

Parking space

Grills

Nothing

Make it available to all

More seating, water fountain

Nothing

I don't know never been there

Make it more attractive

Do not know this park

Not visited there yet but would like to

More things to do

A main attraction

I'm not familiar enough with the park yet

Restoration of Dakota site more info about Dakota site

Never gone to it

I don't know

-restore water ways

-make stairways and trails safe

Not sure never been

I've never been so I don't know

Make Park more visible w/more people I will fill more safe and more fun

Rebuild natural features

More flyers

Activites

remove buckthorn and garlic mustard and encourage historic wildlife to return.

Better access for seniors

Signs

More events/activities

Connecting the creek to Phalen lake would be a major improvement

Access

Daylighting

-Make the cultural connections

- some interpretive signs

I like it as it is

More places to sit, interpretive panels, daylightmore Phalen creek

More access/ events

The city treated the park like the red headed step child.

Schedule trash clean up.days

Need history put in to read

Everything

Everything

1. Restrooms; 2. Water Fountains; 3. Outdoor performance area to tell stories; 4. Place for a wedding out in nature.

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Gardens

More family use

1. Less invasive vegetation; 2. More flowers/gardens; 3. Add more shaded trees

1. Cherry Blossom trees; 2. Shelters; 3. Benches; 4. Flowers; 5. Exercise playground for elders

1. Flowers/Garden; 2. Shelters; 3. Volleyball Courts

*Comments from Hmong Elders Focus Group ----- Restrooms, there needs to be two in opposite ends; Parking Needs to be closer; There is not enough lighting for safety; There needs to be more sports and games; There needs to be grills, because our families gather around food; There should be more picnic tables; There seems to be crime in that park; It's because there needs to be better lighting; There should also be an emergency 911 phone down there; I have concerns about the crime. I am old and I would not bring my grandchildren there; How would I even get down there. There is no accessibility for disabled; Build an elevator; Please incorporate different plants, like from our old country; Include an area for community gardens, but it should at least be 20 x 20 plots. We would grow squash, greens, peppers, onions and carrots. It would be okay if others ate our veggies, as long as they did not eat them all; We need more trash or dog poop containers; You need to ticket those who do not pick up there poop; I live around this area and I didn't even know this park is there. You need better signage; The signs for the park should be in various languages; Nobody will use this park because there is no where to park; You should build an lodge or large community space/center; I don't think you can swim in this park and I don't think we would want to swim in this park or do anything related to water; Is this like the phalen China Garden, This one should just be about Hmong people; I don't feel that this is a neighborhood park, like Phalen is; You need to think about all weather activities; Please plant pretty flowers for us to take pictures with; If you do anything with water, swimming, fishing, the water needs to be clean; Include art, specifically Hmong Art and Indian Art, Indigenous art; I like to watch birds. Keep it natural; If there are walking paths, we need trees and benches along the paths to shield from the sun; Include playgrounds, volley ball, swings, slides and sand for the kids to play in; More picnic tables and grills.

Hmong Youth Focus Group ----- I wouldn't go to this park on my own; I didn't even know that this park existed; I think I went here once when I was a very little kid; I would play football here if they had a nice field; It's a park that I think a lot of people who do bad things hang out in; I think you can add more picnic things like tables, grills, bathrooms; It would be cool to have swimming, tubing, but IDK where you would change your clothes; My parents would not let me come to this park without them; It's a hard park to get to because it's hidden, low, lots of trees; If it's connected to the Phalen, that would be cool.

Swede Hollow Master Plan Meeting Comments April 24, 2019

Comments on Daylighting theme ---- Definition of Daylighting = physically uncovering buried waterways and restoring the waterways. Suggested to daylight fresh spring water onsite versus uncovering buried stormwater system that has low water quality.; The Phalen Creek is restricted to the property line of the park. Anything outside of the park, regarding the creek, is not part of the master plan.; Many commented that they do not want more stormwater or runoffs into the creek in Swede Hollow Park. The existing Phalen Creek is currently fed through an underground pipe through Swede Hollow Park which feeds into the Mississippi River.; In this case, the term “daylighting” is not the correct term to use. Restoring the water or celebration of water would be more fitting.; Someone mentioned Mears Park and perhaps can mirror what is happening with the water in Mears Park in Swede Hollow Park.; More investigation and water feasibility study are needed for Swede Hollow Park.; Is one of the top priorities for the master plan based on the survey results.; Water as an amenity and not a detriment to the river.; Water quality to the river.

Other comments: Provided a space for spiritual programs for local communities. ; Have a park theme that connects the whole park.; Include natural in interpretation.; Use of the term “natural” with historical and cultural.; Separate signage from access.; Have Payne-Bedford Overlook as an access too.; Reach out to Labor Plaza and Lafayette Plaza as a focus group; Reach out to Mn DNR, MPCA, Dept. of Human Services; Tell the story of the migratory flyway in Swede Hollow Park; Connect with Mn DNR about wildlife in Swede Hollow Park; Consider homeless population; Work with SPPD; Sewage smell on south end of park. Is there a way to prevent this?; Coming from Pig’s Eye?; Lighting should not be included for the welfare of wildlife.; Boardwalk would help to traverse § See through/sun shines to plants; Precedent: Big Bog Area State Park boardwalk; Add safety with visibility to priority.; Possibly add parks system map at destination points such as Eileen Weida Park; No additional comments on goals and priorities presented.

Swede Hollow Master Plan Meeting Comments June 1, 2019 -- Café privately owned and operated. Not city owned /operated.; Buckthorn removal.; Like low dim trail lighting for safety on main trail.; Daylight Phalen Creek!; Family in space will deter unwanted behavior.; Will goats be used in Swede Hollow Park to manage invasive species as in Indian Mounds Regional Park and Crosby?/Not sure if goats will be used. This will need further investigation; Daylight water. Boardwalk; I like it that it is dark in the park at night. I come here to watch the bats.; Keep Swede Hollow Park wild! We have plenty of parks with modern amenities. Swede Hollow is the only wild sanctuary, rich in history. Lights will destroy the native habitat. Leave it the way it is. Daylight creek is good!; Consider providing a place for a food truck or two. Food brings public out. Consider; Please feature the fresh spring water flowing on the east (bluff) side of the path. (The intermittent stormwater flow is kind of gross.); Keep it natural! Open to brewery. Get rid of some invasive naturally.; Bike/ped access from Greenbrier St.; Keep planning for good access & planning. Keep the park pristine.; I like the addition of the entrance on Greenbrier.; I have never seen the hollow looking better. The streams are running clearer and cold. Water everywhere. Green & tangled and tranquil.; Please leave it in its natural beauty honoring those who lived here. Those who have worked hard to preserve it. – Nancy G.; I hope there can be more of a connection/access from the Hamm campus to the park.; Improve Drewry Tunnel for handicapped accessibility. Improve stairs.; This is the most untouched, natural park in St. Paul right now. There are plenty of other touched by civilization. Let’s keep it unique. Country in the city.; I would like the park to stay green and not more structure. – Daryl J.; I want to see it mostly natural – I like the “celebrate water” features.; Really like proposed lighting – it will enhance safety w/out disrupting aesthetics. Like trail improvements, boardwalk, signage. I would love to ski down here!